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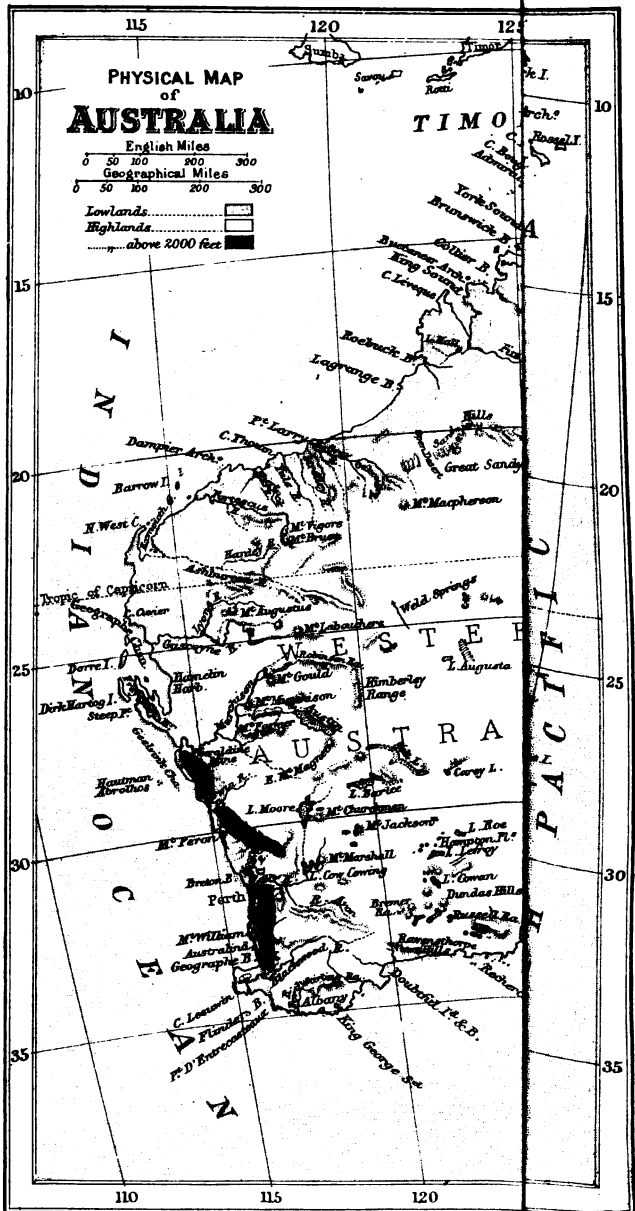
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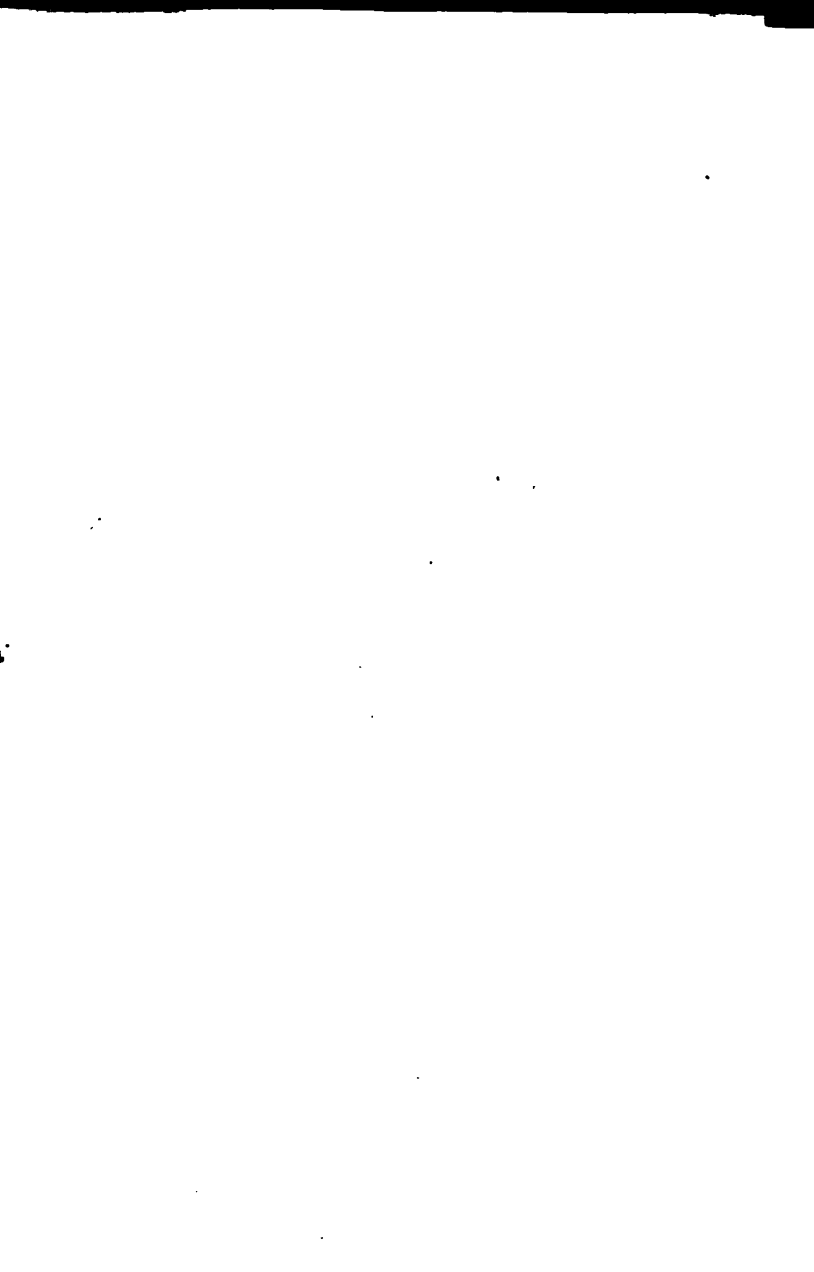
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## PREFACE.

IN compiling the following pages, the author has been much indebted to the copious statistical returns of the various colonial governments. The *Victorian Year Book*, drawn up by Mr. H. H. Hayter, is a model for statisticians throughout the world ; most of the figures in this book are derived from that source unless the contrary is mentioned. It will be observed that the author has been able to add some later figures in the Appendix than those that had arrived when the book itself was written ; this may account for any seeming discrepancies.

He has been under much obligation to Sir Joseph Hooker's work on the Flora of Australia, and to Mr. Alfred Wallace's exhaustive volume on Australasia.

An account of a country without a history must necessarily lack excitement, but the Twentieth Century will assuredly acknowledge that this "calling of a new world into existence" will leave a more permanent mark upon the page of history than did the ravages of conquerors which have desolated older countries.

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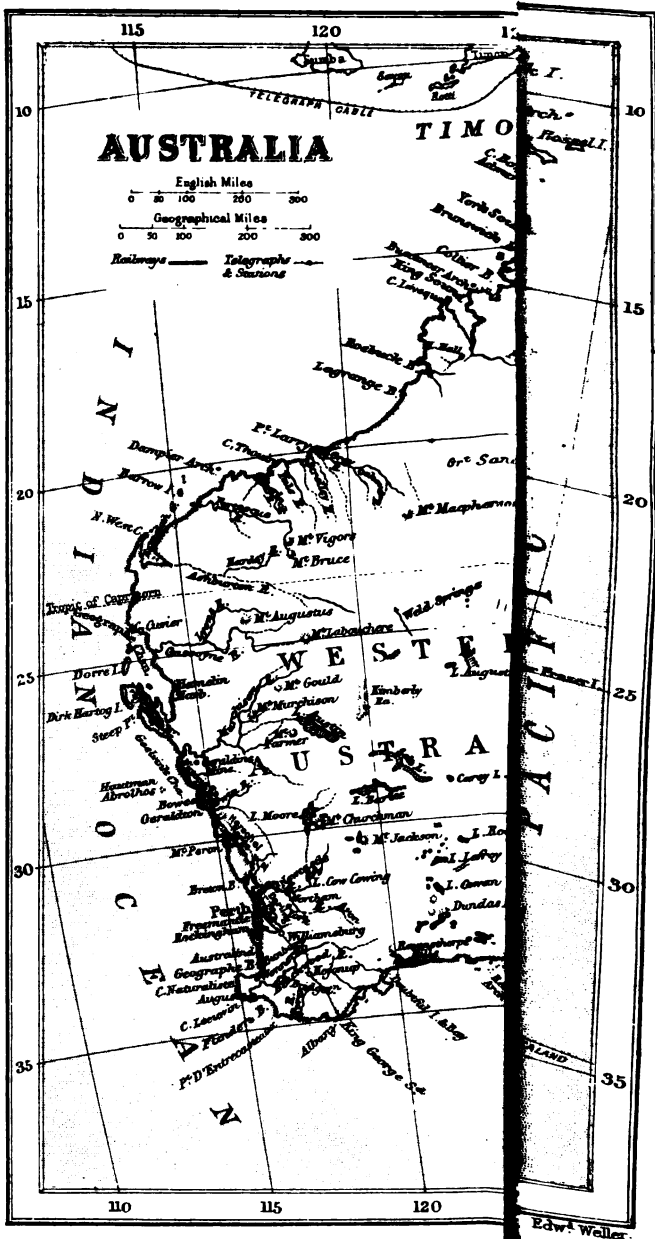
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# AUSTRALIA.

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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTION.

16  
3 BEFORE entering upon a detailed description of each of the Australian Colonies, it may be well to consider their present social and political position. The following remarks will apply to all of them, with the exception of Western Australia, which has not as yet been entrusted with full powers of self-government.

The spirit of loyalty to the Crown, and love for the mother country, always spoken of as "Home," is still strong, but with the growth of a native-born population this feeling is not likely to increase. No wish for a separation from the Empire exists, no grievance is felt, or is likely to arise, as each colony possesses in itself the fullest freedom of action. Each enjoys political institutions framed

by itself; the only difference consists in the construction of the Upper House of Legislature, which in New South Wales and Queensland are nominated by the Crown; in Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, are elected by the people. In all of them the Lower House is elected by a manhood suffrage protected by the ballot. State aid to religion has been everywhere abolished, and systems of education, very nearly secular, have been introduced. Land laws, vying with each other in liberality, have been enacted. Each colony has shown a disposition to limit immigration conducted at the cost of the public revenue. The same industries—pastoral, agricultural, and mining, are everywhere pursued. This identity of interests and of policy seems to point to a closer union of these separate communities. The most thoughtful men already look forward to it, but local jealousies and rivalries are strong, and may for many years prevent such a change.

The necessity for a confederation is not so strong as it is in Canada, or in South Africa; no foreign or hostile nations threaten the frontier. The only attack upon Australia must be made from the sea; but to repel even this danger joint action is required. There are, however, many other reasons why a confederated Colonial Parliament, to deal with

questions of common interest, is most desirable. Postal communication by sea may be taken as an instance. At the present time there are three different lines of steamers subsidized, by New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria, involving unnecessary expense.

Another example may be found in legislation as to the alienation and occupation of the public lands. This should be as far as possible uniform, and based upon some matured plan ; at present these considerations are ignored. Sound principles of settlement, whether those inculcated by Mr. Gibbon Wakefield, or other political economists, are set aside ; no thought is given to the real value of the property alienated ; the great object seems to be to attract population from adjacent colonies, by under-bidding them.

If it should ever be deemed to be desirable to re-establish immigration at the public expense, it is obvious that this should be carried out by combined action. New South Wales and South Australia now devote an annual grant for that purpose, but a large proportion of the immigrants find their way to Victoria—a manifest injustice to the first-named colonies.

A confederation must deal with the difficult subject of Chinese immigration. Queensland,

although desirous to exclude it, cannot do so if South Australia and New South Wales decline to co-operate with her. This difficulty has been felt, and a conference is to be held at Melbourne, where all Australia is now assembled at the International Exhibition.

Intercolonial free trade and a common tariff would supersede the necessity for hostile custom houses on the Murray. The cheap products of Tasmania would not be shut out from the consumers in Victoria, nor would the sugar of Queensland be excluded from the markets of Sydney and Melbourne. We should not see different gauges of railway adopted. Trunk lines would have been made for the general advantage, rather than for the benefit of influential localities. The decision as to what may be the best line across the continent to Carpentaria would be made upon public grounds. A central Court of Appeal would doubtless be established, to obviate a costly recourse to the Privy Council in London. A better class of men might be found to devote their time to public duties, who are now indisposed to mix in local politics.

The existing tariff need not be an insuperable obstacle to such a measure. Although some colonies profess to legislate upon free trade, and others

---

upon protective principles, all agree in levying heavy duties upon imports. Local rivalries for pre-eminence are likely to cause more serious difficulty, and to postpone the time when Australia may, like Canada, take her place amongst the nations of the world, and add another "Dominion" to the Crown of England.

Many persons regret the democratic character of our colonial constitutions, and doubt whether the rights of property will eventually be secure. Others argue that inasmuch as property can so easily be acquired, and is already so subdivided, no danger is likely to arise. They cite the instance of Victoria, where, out of a total constituency of 176,022 there are 154,012 qualified as ratepayers. They argue that democracy is inevitable in young communities, where the influence of the Crown is almost unknown—where there is not an existing aristocracy, nor the materials out of which one can be constructed—where property, so easily obtained, and of such recent growth, does not carry with it the prestige attached to it in older countries—where there are few institutions to be conserved—where, in fact, everything has to be created. They point out that the Constitutional Acts, as originally passed, contained provisions for property qualification, both



in electors and elected, but that these, with other conservative checks, were eliminated by the newly formed legislatures themselves, with the general concurrence of public opinion.

The soundest conclusion appears to be that the colonists have thus framed for themselves a system of government well adapted to their wants, that a wise discretion was used in confiding to them full powers to alter its provisions, and that they will ultimately evolve a still more perfect organization. The great attention they have paid to education gives grounds for the hope that the marked intelligence they display in other matters will also be seen in the higher paths of enlightened legislation, and that if democracy can be successful anywhere in connexion with English ideas, it will here find its fairest trial. The experiment will be tried under exceptionally favourable circumstances. From its insular position Australia has no frontier conterminous with foreign nations. Far removed from the politics of the older world, it is not likely to be embroiled in war on its own account, its distance renders it comparatively safe from invasion ; it is therefore free from all motive to maintain gigantic armies. From the temper of its inhabitants it, at least the southern portion of it, is sure to be the home of one homogeneous people

of the Anglo-Saxon stock, free from that admixture of race which has been the bane of other lands. Is it unreasonable to hope that this people, starting under such advantages, with the accumulated experience of ages, aided by the discoveries of modern science, should have a great future before it?

That many mistakes have been made, that much unnecessary confusion has been created, that cases of individual hardship have occurred, cannot be denied. Accustomed as Australians are to rapid progress, to see the work of a century condensed into a decade, they are deficient in patience. Let them look to the experience of their parent land, and see that there the most burning questions are debated for many years before satisfactory solutions are discovered. Colonial legislation has been far from perfect, but its censors should ask themselves the question whether any people ever achieved the same results with less of suffering or of sacrifice. The history of the wars and factions of older nations should reconcile all reasonable men to much greater disappointments and more serious shortcomings.

The only danger of external war arises from the connexion with England. It is doubtful whether the colonists will always be content to be exposed

to the risk. They are dependent upon their foreign commerce, exposed to capture in wars in which they might have no direct interest, in the conduct of which they have no part, in the glory of which they have no share. Such feelings cannot be said to have as yet arisen, but they have presented themselves to some thoughtful minds. This has led them to look forward to a still closer union between Great Britain and her colonies. They hope that means may be found to enable the latter to participate in a general policy; they foresee that unless such a further union be effected disintegration must, sooner or later, occur—that it can be only a question of time.

These considerations have excited but little interest in the colonies; it is of more importance to England than to them, that the existing connexion should be maintained. As a field for British trade, as an outlet for our surplus population, and as producers of our food, they are invaluable. Such considerations are, as we shall see, more applicable to Australia than to any other possession.

Some economists may decry emigration, but it is not easy to think that a process which has existed since the creation of mankind, by means of which "the whole earth has been overspread,"

can in itself be injurious, or less than a necessity. So long as there are still unoccupied countries, it seems inevitable that overcrowded lands should send forth their swarms to "hive off," to "fresh fields and pastures new."

In a paper read before the Statistical Society of London, in 1876, by Mr. Stephen Bourne, it was stated that in that year our imported food had cost us 159,000,000*l.*, and that in each and every year we should require an additional 3,000,000*l.* worth of provisions from abroad. Whence can this be drawn so advantageously as from our own colonies, able and willing to send us every article we can require? In the present year, 1880, South Australia has 350,000, and Victoria 150,000 tons of surplus wheat ready for shipment.

All this food must be paid for by British exports, and in our colonies we find our best customers. The "Statesman's Year Book" shows that in the same year the United States took of our exports 16,833,577*l.*, while Australia purchased from us 17,681,661*l.*—the former having twenty-fold the population of the latter—a result truly surprising. An interesting calculation has been made that each Australian is actually a larger consumer of British manufactures than is a resident in England, the average in Australia being 7*l.* 4*s.*,

in England 6*l.* 7*s.* As an employer of English labour, an inhabitant of Sydney is of more importance than a resident in Manchester or Edinburgh. Each emigrant to Australia, therefore, not only relieves the pressure felt in England, but as a consumer gives employment to his less enterprising fellow-countryman—at the same time as a producer he supplies the looms of Leeds with wool, and with other raw produce he augments the trade of England: he has not ceased to belong to England, he has merely enlarged her coasts.

It is much to be regretted, for the sake of this country, that the working classes in Australia, the depositories of political power, object to further immigration. Prior to the introduction of constitutional government a large portion of the Land Fund used to be applied to this purpose; and it has often been doubted whether when the Crown lands were given over to the colonies, care should not have been taken to reserve a percentage of their proceeds for the benefit of the working classes of the United Kingdom. The policy of handing over 669,520 square miles to the 25,000 men, women, and children who happened to be at the moment in Queensland has been much questioned. These too fortunate colonists cannot but feel that a handful of men in a large continent have many

advantages. The cry of "Australia for the Australians" is but a parallel to what is heard in Ireland and in America. It is not within our province to discuss here any such political questions; but as this feeling, or some phase of it, underlies many conflicts, it would be improper not to notice it.

It developes itself in the opposition to Chinese immigration both in Australia and in California, and to the introduction of Polynesian labourers into Queensland. The moral objections to the presence of 40,000 alien males need not to be pointed out—they have added strength to an agitation based upon a fear of reduced wages. There does not appear to be much danger that any large Chinese settlement will be permanent in the South. A return issued in 1880 by the Victorian Government states that there are in Queensland 14,524 Chinese, in Victoria 13,000, in New South Wales 9500, in South Australia, including Port Darwin, 2000, in Tasmania 750. The significant fact is added, that in Victoria their numbers in twenty years had decreased by 33,000. The question is very different in North Queensland and about Port Darwin; to these places the passage from China is short, and it is difficult to see how they can be permanently settled by Europeans, or why the latter should be acclimatized there more easily

than in any other tropical latitude. The huge extent of Queensland and of the Northern Territory renders a further subdivision inevitable; this may afford a solution of the problem by the formation of an exclusively Asiatic province, such as now exists in the Straits Settlements.

To return from this digression. It is not only as an outlet for the surplus population of these kingdoms, as a market for their manufactures, and as producers of their food, that Australia is valuable, It affords a safe field for the investment of an ever growing capital, in public and private loans, in banks, in mortgages, &c. A reference to the tables in the Appendix will show the public debts.

Exception has sometimes been taken to the amount which has been borrowed by the various colonial governments; but a little inquiry shows that so far the greater part of it has been expended upon reproductive works—a very different policy from that which contracted the national debt of England, expended chiefly upon gunpowder. The construction of railways, roads, and some other public works, is simply a necessity in a new country. The question therefore resolves itself into the consideration whether it is better to delay the requisite expenditure until the cost can be defrayed from annual income, or boldly to borrow the money

required. Results have proved so far as railway expenditure is concerned, that where the money has been fairly laid out, the nett profit nearly, if not quite, pays the whole of the interest upon the borrowed capital; and no doubt remains that with the growth of traffic, railways will yield a surplus revenue. In New South Wales this is already the case. In Victoria the loss is fractional, and none would have been incurred but for the enormous cost of the first laid lines.<sup>1</sup>

The true criterion to decide by is, whether the money can be expended upon fairly reproductive works; when it can be, borrowing can be safely adopted. An interesting table is inserted, giving the cost of railways and telegraph-lines constructed by such means. It is right to add, that there are other public works, defrayed from the same source, which are not directly reproductive.

In the following account of each colony it will not be easy to avoid considerable repetition. The industrial pursuits and natural advantages in each are very similar. As far as possible, an attempt will be made to give a fuller description of the more striking characteristics of each place, *e.g.*, of gold

<sup>1</sup> The loans raised for this purpose will terminate in a short time, and the lower rate of interest at which they can be renewed will effect a saving of 160,000*l.* a year. No loss will then be incurred.



mining in Victoria, of agriculture in South Australia, without in the least meaning to insinuate that agriculture is not really as flourishing in the former as in the latter, or that the mineral wealth of South Australia is not quite equal to that of Victoria. Educational progress has been more marked in Victoria than elsewhere, therefore more particulars of it will be found in the chapter upon that colony. If the account of the latter colony should appear to be more full than its importance warrants, it arises from the fact that the returns from thence are more ample, and not from any natural preference for it in the mind of the author, who has tried to be strictly impartial, and, as far as possible, to sink his own personal predilections.

## CHAPTER II.

### GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE COUNTRY.

THE island, or rather it may be termed the continent, of Australia contains 2,903,200 square miles. From north to south it measures 1965, from east to west 2600 miles, and is 8000 in circumference. Europe contains 3,819,932 square miles. Probably there is no portion of the world possessing so much valueless land. Except in Queensland, where a few rivers are navigable for a short distance, and the Roper and Victoria in the extreme north, the Murray with its affluents is the only stream available for commerce. The climate is healthy, although subject both to floods and droughts, leaving large tracts destitute of water. These facts, coupled with the sterility of widespread scrubs, preclude the hope that this country can be the home of a dense population, or that the same grand future can be predicted in the southern as

may be confidently expected in the western hemisphere. The unexampled prosperity already attained in the south-eastern portion of it has led many to draw a different conclusion, but a mature consideration of the general character of the whole continent will prove the truth of this statement.

So far back as the year 1542 mention has been made of the Terra Australis, but beyond the fact of its existence little was known. The Dutch have the honour of discovering the northern, western, and southern coasts. In 1616 Dick Hartag had cruised along the western shore, and eighteen years later another of his countrymen had rounded Cape Leenin and pushed far to the east. In 1642 Tasman discovered the island called by him Van Diemen's Land, but now named after him, Tasmania. Dutch names occur in all directions, proving the priority of discovery, and justifying their right to give the name of New Holland to the whole continent, by which name it was known until a very recent date.

The English were the only nation to make any practical use of these, and of subsequent discoveries under Dampier and Cook. The latter, in 1720, coasted along the Pacific shore from the extreme southern point to Cape York, in lat.  $10^{\circ}$  S. Since his time the survey of the coast has been continued under Bass, Flinders, King, and others. More

recently the Admiralty have made charts and taken soundings in all the more important places.

The interior of the country has been explored by the arduous and romantic journeys of Hume, Sturt, Macleay, Eyre, Mitchell, Leichardt, Burke, Kennedy, Gregory, McDouall Stuart] Kennedy, Warburton, Forrest, and others. From their reports, it is evident that no district of any great importance remains to be discovered. Their tracks have been quickly followed up by enterprising settlers, and thus the whole of the eastern portion from South Australia to Carpentaria has been more or less occupied by flocks and herds.

The privations endured by these gallant explorers have never been surpassed. In some instances, such as that of Leichardt, the whole party has been lost; in others only individuals succumbed to sufferings caused by want of water, and by extreme heat. As a sample, on Cooper's Creeks "The blasts were so terrific, that we wondered the grass did not fire. This was nothing ideal, for everything animate and inanimate gave way before it; the horses stood with their backs to the wind, and their noses sunk upon the ground, without the muscular strength to raise their heads; the birds sat upon the boughs mute and terrified, and the parched leaves fell like snow, whilst the thermometer gradu-

ated to 127°, burst its tube owing to the expansion of the mercury. Before fresh supplies reached them the leader had lost the use of his limbs from scurvy, his skin became black, his muscles contracted.”<sup>1</sup> Such were some of the obstacles encountered by men whose labours will be more particularly noticed farther on in these pages.

In so large a continent there must be a great diversity of scenery, of soil, and of climate. In the Blue Mountains and Australian Alps magnificent views may be obtained; at the Hawkesbury, Illawarra, and in some other districts tropical vegetation is mixed with picturesque landscape. In spring, the Wattles (*Acacias*), with their golden mantle, entrance the eye; but the general appearance of the country, especially in the autumn, is sad and gloomy; the sombre foliage of the trees, few of which are deciduous, and the brown appearance of the herbage throughout the greater part of the year, present a striking contrast to the eye of the immigrant fresh from the fields of England. For days the explorer may thread his way through forests of gum-trees (*Eucalyptus*), whose narrow leaves afford no shade from the scorching sun; or as Forrest did, through 600 miles of Spinnifex (*Amorpha* *irritans*), a useless, and almost impenetrable grass.

<sup>1</sup> Sturt's "Journal."

On emerging from it he may see plains bounded only by the horizon, which, although barren in appearance, often prove to be the best for pasture. Again his journey may be interrupted by the Mallee scrub, (*Eucalyptus dumosa*), which in some places occupies thousands of square miles of waterless land, unenlivened by animals or birds, when an oppressive desolation affects the senses ; or the Tea-tree (*Melaleucca leptospermum*), always growing in water-courses, may oppose an impassable barrier ; wide-spreading heaths may discourage his progress ; he may grow weary of the " Salt bush " country, where the inexperienced would imagine that no stock could live, but which has proved to be of value. Immense plains covered with this unpicturesque but most useful vegetation, are to be met with on the Lower Murray, below Swan Hill, and on the Darling about Mount Murchison. Then a rich, well-watered oasis in the desert rewards his toil, where he can rest, and refresh his exhausted horses and prepare for a new start.

The mistakes made by the first explorers and by the earlier settlers, in their estimate of the value and capabilities of the soil have been singular. The most uninviting country has often turned out to be of value, and attractive appearances have frequently been found to be fallacious. Plains

which once were thought to be unfit to support a sheep now wave with wheat ; towns and villages flourish in places once deemed only fit for the kangaroo. As a rule, the fertility of the land has been under-estimated, perhaps because it was not for the interest of the temporary occupants to draw attention to it.

From this cursory glance at the aspect of the remote interior, it must not be concluded that from Dan to Beersheba all is barren ; the contrary will abundantly appear when the progress made in the established colonies comes to be described. Wherever water is found vegetation is luxuriant ; timber of the greatest size is to be found in the mountain ranges of Gipp's Land and of Dandenong. Trees of 420 feet, and it is said one of 500 feet in height, are still growing. One fallen monarch of the forest measured as it lay 480 feet ; when perfect it must have been considerably larger. In no part of the world have these measurements been surpassed.

In Tasmania, also, splendid timber is to be seen ; on the Huon trees vary from 250 to 300 feet. The following graphic account is given of the largest in Tasmania, near O'Brien's Bridge :—"I have visited the tree. It is a trifle over 300 feet, and there are some fifty feet of the top blown off. I myself have seen fourteen men on horseback in the hollow

of it ; a horse and dray have been turned in the hollow of the tree. . . . Sir William Dennison the Governor, and seventy-eight of the Legislative Assembly and their friends, dined in the hollow of the tree.

In Western Australia there are large forests of Jarrah, a valuable wood sometimes called mahogany. Sandal-wood and cedar are also exported, but as a rule the timber is not much prized. In most places it constitutes the only fuel, and near the Gold-fields miles of land have been denuded for the purposes of mining. Great injury has already been done by the indiscriminate destruction which has been permitted. No subject requires more careful legislation or has been more totally neglected than that of the preservation of the forest-lands.



## CHAPTER III.

## CLIMATE.

THE irregularity and partiality which characterize the rainfall is doubtless the great cause of the sterility prevailing in the centre of the continent. At Sydney the average amount is about 50 inches ; at Adelaide it is 21.15 ; at Melbourne it is 24.10 ; at Perth it is nearly 30, and at Brisbane as much as 80 inches have been known to fall. The Blue Mountains intercept the rains from the Pacific, and deprive the country to the west of them of this essential element. Thus at Bathurst, lying to the west of the coast range, only 23 inches are recorded ; whilst at Wentworth, 500 miles inland from Sydney, the quantity is reduced to 14 inches. The irregularity, rather than the want of rain, is the cause of most of the inconvenience and loss experienced by the settlers. A few examples will suffice to prove

this. The greatest rainfall recorded in Sydney was in 1860, when 82.81 inches fell ; the smallest was in 1849, when it amounted only to 21.49. In Queensland the greatest and least were respectively in 1870 and 1865, in the first year 79.06, and in the latter 24.11 inches fell. In South Australia in 1875, 31.45, and in 1869, 13.85 inches are recorded. In Victoria the meteorological tables mention 44.25 inches in 1849, and only 15.94 inches in 1865. This uncertainty is often aggravated by the violence of the storms. On one day 20.41 inches fell at the South head near Sydney, and on another day 8.90 inches fell in that city.

These tables have been kept with great accuracy, much valuable information can be obtained from Heaton's "Dictionary of Australian Dates." He gives an interesting tabular statement of every drought and flood in each month in each year, which have occurred in New South Wales since its commencement. As an example of the destruction caused by floods, he tells us, "A great flood took place in almost all parts of the colony, the country adjacent to the Shoalhaven and Araluen rivers in the south suffering most from this visitation. The prospects of the agriculturalists, and of the diggers, were alike blasted by the overwhelming water. Many lives were lost, and, in some in-

stances, whole families were drowned. Entire houses were overwhelmed, and cattle, crops, fences, agricultural instruments, the wreck of households and farms, were carried to the sea coast for a distance of miles. One proprietor near Goulburn lost 2000 sheep. At Braidwood another proprietor lost to the extent of 5000/., the railway works lost to a great extent, embankments being washed from under the rails," &c.

All the colonies except West Australia seem to be subject to such disasters. The same authority gives a list of the chief floods ; it is worth notice, that they have been more numerous and more heavy in later years. Probably this arises from the fact that the surface of the ground has become more consolidated by occupation, and that thus a less quantity of water is absorbed, and that more is discharged into the streams.

These violent and sudden inundations account for the otherwise incredible fact that Lake George, in New South Wales, was, in 1824, twenty miles in length, and eight in width, that in the year 1837 it was perfectly dry, and its bed clothed with the richest grass, that in 1865 it was again a lake twenty miles in length, and that old water-marks indicate that in former days it had reached three feet higher than it has been since the arrival of the white man. In South Australia also many large

fresh-water lakes delighted the eyes of the early discoverers. A few dry seasons have converted them into little more than marshes, or into pools of salt or brackish water.

Such exceptional rainfalls are alternated with seasons of drought. In New South Wales scarcely any rain fell in 1814, and 1815, a very severe drought was also experienced in 1827, 1828, and 1829. In 1878, the flock-owners lost several millions of sheep and cattle from the same cause.

In the infancy of the settlement, when cultivation was confined to a very small area, absolute famine more than once threatened its existence. No recurrence of such a danger need now be dreaded; the larger extent on which agriculture is extended renders it certain that, as excessive droughts have always been partial, there will always be an abundant supply from some district. If effectual steps were taken to store the redundant water and thus to provide for irrigation, much land, now unproductive, would be rendered fertile, and a perceptible effect upon the extreme aridity of the climate would probably be produced by extended cultivation.

Notwithstanding such extreme changes the climate is very healthy; the death rate of the white population throughout the whole continent is only 19 per thousand, and in West Australia it is stated

that since its foundation in 1829 it has been as low as 10. In England the average is 25. Medical men are of opinion that this high percentage is on account of defective sanitary arrangements—that the normal rate should be 17. The “Victorian Year Book” shows that in the eleven years enumerated in it, only once was that rate exceeded in that colony. “In the last year it was two deaths below it per thousand persons living, and according to the average annual mortality of the eleven years, it was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  deaths below it per thousand persons living.” This fact is the more remarkable, as in no part of the civilized world is less attention paid to sanitary subjects. The marvellous accuracy of the “Year Book” is well-known, otherwise these figures could scarcely be credited.

The temperature and moisture of the atmosphere may be seen at a glance of the following table:—

	Mean.	Absolute maximum.	Absolute minimum.	Absolute range.	Mean daily range.	Mean humidity.	Average rain-fall, inches.
Brisbane . . . .	70	108	34	73	20	76	51
Sydney . . . .	62.4	107	36	71	14	72	50
Melbourne . . .	57.5	111	27	84	18	72	26
Adelaide . . . .	66.1	113	34	79	20	60	26
Hobart Town . .	54.4	105	29	76	17	75	23

These figures<sup>1</sup> indicate that Sydney has a climate analogous to that of Lisbon, and Melbourne to that of the South of France. The vegetable products point to the same conclusion. The orange ripens freely at the former and only in exceptional places in the latter. Many other points of similarity might be pointed out.

In the interior the heat is sometimes like that of a furnace. Captain Sturt's experience of it has already been quoted. In another passage, he says that for three months the thermometer registered a mean of  $101^{\circ}$  in the shade. Another authority mentions an instance of  $131^{\circ}$ . Such figures corroborate the view that these localities can never carry a dense European population, even if there were no other obstacles, and that the only use to which they can be put is to depasture cattle.

New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria suffer during the summer from "hot winds." These generally last for a few hours, but occasionally blow for three days, always subsiding at night. No perfectly satisfactory explanation has been given of what causes them. Some persons find them very oppressive, but they never are allowed to interfere with ordinary occupations, and medical men do not consider them to be unhealthy. They are almost

<sup>1</sup> Heaton, p. 62.

always terminated by a "southerly burster," which brings a rapid and severe change of temperature, usually accompanied by a storm of rain.

Notwithstanding such extremes of heat and alternations of wet and dry, it must not be inferred that the climate is disagreeable. On the contrary, in Sydney and Victoria more really enjoyable weather is experienced than in most places. Tasmania possesses almost an ideal climate. Even on the continent the British race does not deteriorate, any change in the physical development of the native born seems to mark an improvement. All manly sports are pursued with enthusiasm, and in all international contests the Colonial youths have more than maintained their character.

The foregoing observations must be understood to be confined to the Southern Colonies. Queensland, at the best semi-tropical, extends to within ten degrees of the equator. There, and in the "Northern Territory" of South Australia, the climate is thoroughly tropical, and its suitability for European labour is doubtful—a question discussed hereafter (*vide* Queensland).

## CHAPTER IV.

### FLORA AND FAUNA.

TO the eye of the botanist the flora of Australia presents the richest treat. Already 8000 distinct species have been discovered, a number exceeding those known in Europe: it is supposed that 2000 more may still be added to them: Additional interest is given to this study when we consider the very remote geological period at which this continent was separated from the other country. This has rendered any intrusion upon it from without an impossibility. A distinct affinity has been observed between its flora and that of South Africa. This has led naturalists to think that at some remote epoch land must have existed between the two continents, and possibly that they might at one period have been united. Sir J. Hooker, than whom there is no higher authority, in his "Flora of Australia, its origin, affinities, and distribution," in



speaking of the high antiquity and organization as well as of the remarkable richness of it, especially in the south-west, near King George's Sound, considers that these phenomena can only be accounted for by the supposition that the country at one time extended far to the south and west. Such of our readers as may wish to study this most interesting subject will find a mine of information in the work above mentioned, also in Mr. Wallace's "Australasia" (Stanford), to both of which works we are much indebted. They will find that this is the true "Flowery Land," and that the name of the earliest British settlement, "Botany Bay," was well merited.

Few, if any, of the animals found in this country are known in other lands. None of the mammalia are common to them, unless the dingo, or wild dog, be reckoned as indigenous, and mice, of which thirty-one species have been classified. On the other hand it has mammalia peculiar to itself—the most remarkable are the marsupials, amongst which the kangaroos come first—of these there are forty-nine distinct species. The large red kangaroo frequently reaches the height of five feet; but instances occur of a much larger size. One was killed at Goulburn measuring nine feet from tip to tip, the tail weighed  $18\frac{1}{2}$  lbs., and was four feet in length.

Another measured eleven feet seven inches; it weighed 207 lbs., of which the tail was 22 lbs. Harmless and timorous in its nature, when brought to bay by its pursuers it shows fight, and with its powerful hind hoof has often destroyed its assailants. When hard pressed in the chase, it often takes refuge in water-holes and drowns the eager hounds. An instance is related in Tasmania, for the truth of which we cannot vouch, of a gigantic kangaroo seizing a man in his fore arms, bounding down a hill and releasing him unhurt at the bottom. Although the flesh is dry and tasteless, the settlers never weary of hunting them, more especially as since the destruction of the dingo and diminution of the Aborigines their numbers have multiplied until they have become a serious nuisance, both to the pastoral and agricultural farmer. Grass sufficient for many thousands of sheep is consumed by them on many stations. Thousands are destroyed by organized battues. At Trunkey Station, in New South Wales, 8000 were slaughtered in August, 1877. But all efforts to check their increase has hitherto proved futile. The "Marsupial plague" is an ordinary topic of conversation in the bush of Queensland.

These, and all other marsupials are distinguished by the strange pouch in which their young are

brought to maturity. In it they are attached to a nipple through which they receive nourishment, and thus remain until they are perfectly developed, they afterwards take refuge there when in danger. The skin might form a valuable export, as the finest and softest leather can be made from it; but it is strangely neglected.

The bandicoot and the rabbit-rat, although they do not bound like the kangaroo, but run as quadrupeds, are closely allied to them.

The opossums (*Phalangistæ*) have also increased so rapidly that the settlers have found it necessary to employ active measures for their destruction. The skins are largely used in rugs and cloaks. They vary much in size from that of a tiny mouse to nearly a yard in length, but usually they do not exceed that of a well-grown rabbit. The elegant "flying squirrel" is merely an opossum with scarcely developed wings. They contrive to fly from tree to tree, in which they live, and on the leaves of which they feed. In earlier days opossums formed the chief support of the aborigines who displayed much skill in scaling the trees in their pursuit.

With the exception of the dingo, the tiger wolf (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*), and the native devil (*Sarcophilus ursinus*), there are no beasts of prey.

These two are now confined to Tasmania, but fossils prove that they once inhabited the mainland.

The Platypus (the *Ornithorynchus paradoxus*), the duck's-bill or water-mole of the settlers, has recently been proved to be a mammal, and to belong to the marsupials, both of which facts were for a long time doubted. It has four stout legs with webbed feet. It is covered with a brownish fur, and has a strong broad bill. It lives in rivers, in the banks of which it burrows upwards; the orifice of the passage being beneath the surface of the water, it rarely wanders far from its hole, and is seldom seen. In these nests it lays black eggs, about the size of a pigeon's; it is found both on the continent and in Tasmania.

The birds are unrivalled in beauty of plumage. Cockatoos, parrots, the lyre-bird, so called from the resemblance of its tail to that instrument of music, the pigeon, and many of the smaller kinds present an endless variety of colour. Of the 630 land-birds already known as belonging to Australia, not more than five per cent. are to be found in other countries. The most widely diffused are the *Meliphagidæ*, or honey-eaters, and the emus, a species of ostrich, but of a much smaller size than the African. These are often hunted with dogs, and afford excellent sport. The wild turkey, or bustard, is also to be met

with on the plains—it is esteemed a luxury on the table.

The strange habits of the bower-bird are also deserving of notice. It ornaments its house—for it can scarcely be termed its nest—with feathers and other gorgeous articles, a covered gallery, several feet in length, is thus dressed up. A good specimen of this singular building may be seen in the British Museum.

Seventy varieties of snakes are found, chiefly in the northern districts ; only three exist in Tasmania. All of these are more or less venomous, but only four are supposed to be able to inflict a fatal wound. Few years pass in which three or four lives are not lost owing to this cause, for which no effectual remedy is known.

Lizards, toads, and frogs are well represented. Some of the former attain to a large size. No more mournful sound can be imagined than the croaking of the latter from the marshes or the tea-tree scrub.

Insects are innumerable ; locusts, grasshoppers, and caterpillars in some places prove ruinous to the farmer's hopes. Ethnologists are well rewarded in the search for beetles ; butterflies, on the contrary, are not numerous, especially in the south.

The rivers do not contain many fishes of any great value, either for the angler or the table. The

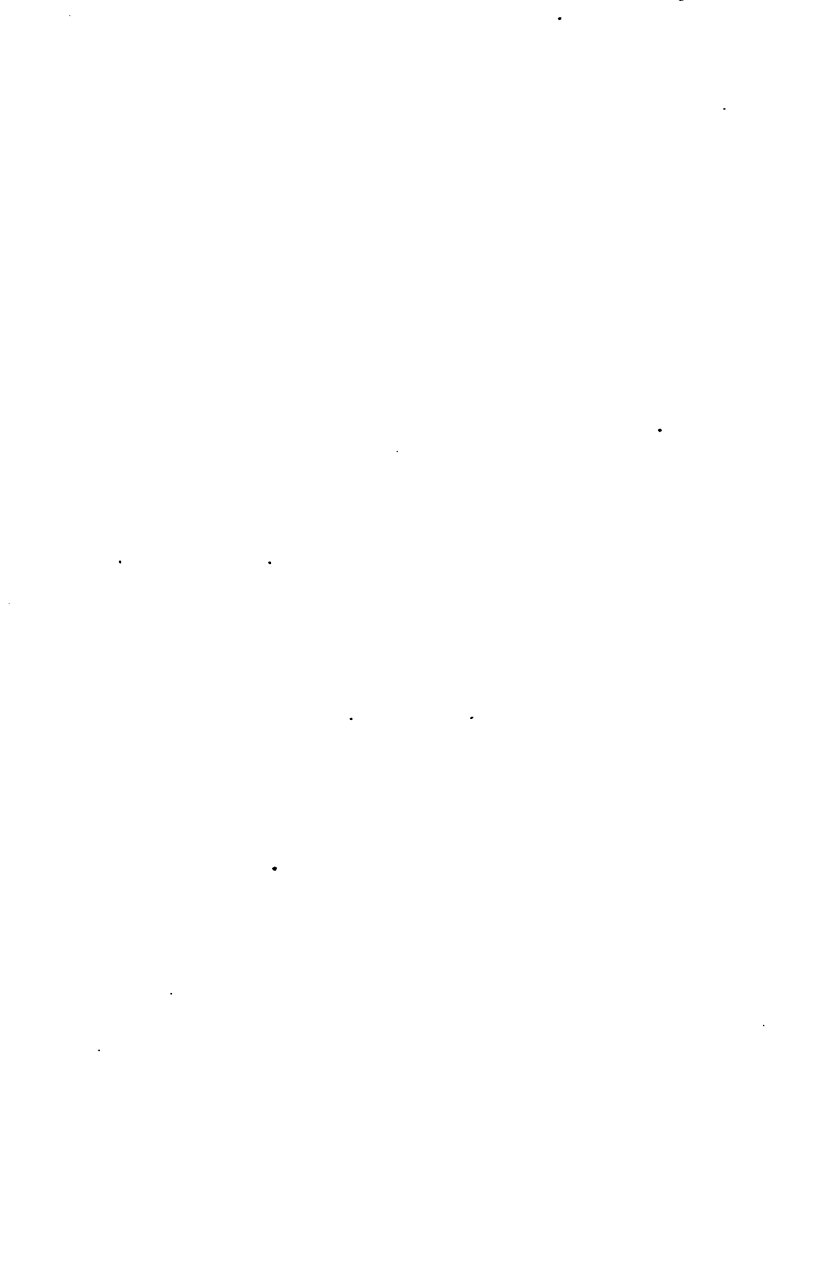
Murray cod sometimes reaches a great size, and is by some esteemed as an article of food. The Yarra herring (*Thymellus Australis*), called in Tasmania the cucumber mullet, is almost identical with the English grayling, it occupies most of the streams there and in Victoria. Professor McCay, of the Melbourne University, says that "it is a true grayling, and that its close resemblance to the *Salmonidæ* helped the Acclimatisation Society to argue that certain of our rivers would serve for the experiment of acclimatising the European salmon and trout, and, as experience has since shown, successfully."

The sea is well supplied with fish, but few of any superior quality have been taken. The Tasmanian "trumpeter" is much esteemed, and the garfish is reckoned a delicacy. Whaling at one time was actively followed, but of late years that pursuit has almost completely been abandoned.

## CHAPTER V.

## THE ABORIGINES.

NO reliable data exists as to the number of the Aboriginal inhabitants at the time of the arrival of the "first fleet." One wild guess estimated them at 3,000,000. Captain Phillip, the first Governor, thought that there might be one-third of that number, subsequent inquiry has led people to think that in the whole continent there were then only 150,000. At the present time it is supposed that about 100,000 survive. As they have totally disappeared from the more settled districts, and the same causes continue to diminish their number, it is a fair inference that in process of time they will become extinct wherever European settlement is effected. Internal wars, disease, intemperance, and changed habits of life have led to this result rather than actual violence or force employed against them ; some outrages against them doubtless have







occurred, but they were punished with a strong hand by the Executive. History presents no example in which a native was dispossessed by a superior race, with less hardship or oppression.

Little, if anything, is known of their origin. Ethnologists think that they are in no way allied either to the Papuans or Malays; that the only race to which they bear any resemblance are some hill tribes in Central India. Their theory is that, they are the remains of a very ancient people occupying the Malayan Archipelago, from which they were displaced by its present inhabitants. Some persons push their speculations still further, and think that the Tasmanians, the last of whom died about five years ago, were distinct from the Australians, who had supplanted them on the mainland, as they themselves had been displaced by the Malays in the islands. Much of this is mere conjecture.

Their colour is that of dark coffee. Some of the men measure six feet, the average being about five feet six inches. The women being about six inches smaller. In muscular development they exhibit a marked affinity to Europeans. The hair is wavy or curly, the Tasmanians were woolly, the beard thick and crisp, the eye dark. The average length of life is supposed to be fifty years.

No system of government exists. They are divided into numerous small tribes, between which constant sanguinary feuds are carried on. Although there is one root common to the various dialects, much difference is apparent. No trace of religion, beyond a vague belief in evil spirits, is found amongst them. They have no alphabet; few of them can count above three. Their huts consist of a couple of sheets of bark put up to windward. These "mia-mias" they occupy for a few days, and then they wander further in quest of game.

The northern natives are more muscular and warlike, but essentially the same habits prevail. In the warmer latitudes they wear no clothes, in the south opossum rugs and blankets are used; but no sense of shame is seen in either sex, and chastity is unknown. Lazy and cruel, they form one of the lowest types of humanity. Since the arrival of the Europeans, food has become so abundant that they have relinquished cannibalism, a habit they formerly indulged in.

They are entirely given to hunting, and never cultivate the ground. In the former they show considerable skill, tracking their game with wonderful instinct, and use stratagem in stalking kangaroos and emus. For fishing they used nets and fish-hooks and made weirs. Their only weapons

are spears and boomerangs, tomahawks and clubs. They are not, however, without powers of observation; some of them are good mimics, and some singular tracings of animals have been found on the rocks near Sydney. Their habits are so uncertain that all attempts to utilize their labours permanently have failed; but for a short period, for harvesting, for sheep-washing, &c., they are often employed.

Sir Thomas Mitchell, Mr. Eyre, and others form a higher estimate of them, and Captain Sturt relates a curious incident; that he met a tribe who never had seen a white man, but who "possessed an intimate knowledge of freemasonry, and gave the sign only known to the mystic brotherhood. Mr. M'Dowell Stewart, when exploring, met with a similar experience. "When he returned the sign, the native patted him on the shoulder, stroked his hand, and gave other signs of pleasurable and brotherly recognition."

In missionary schools some of them have learned to read and understand the rudiments of arithmetic. One clergyman says that he saw "a village of civilized Aborigines living happily together, employing their time in cultivating a magnificent estate, and while providing their own labour for their temporal wants, not neglecting their all-important spiritual

necessities, but daily seeking to acquire a further knowledge of their Creator and Redeemer, and striving to worship Him in spirit and in truth." In the face of such evidence, it is impossible to deny that they are susceptible of improvement. Some progress has undoubtedly been made amongst the half-caste children. These are few in number, as they have been for the most part destroyed.

It doubtless is a national and Christian duty to protect this unhappy race from oppression and to do all in our power to alleviate their condition; but it is hoping against hope to expect that much real good will be effected before their final disappearance from the scene. Even at Poonindee, the model settlement in South Australia, mentioned above, the rapid diminution of numbers was most marked.

## CHAPTER VI.

### GEOLOGY.

THE most competent geologists are of opinion that Australia formerly, but probably not since the miocene period, formed a portion of Asia. It must have been at one time more extended. The shallow seas between it and the islands of New Guinea and of Tasmania, the former being only nine fathoms deep, coupled with the ascertained subsidence of the ocean bed, renders this evident, even if the identity of the flora and fauna did not establish the fact. The Great Barrier Reef, extending for 1200 miles along the eastern coast, a coral formation, sinks suddenly 2000 feet, as it is well known that the coral insect works only near the surface of the water, it follows that the original bed of the ocean must have sunk nearly 2000 feet. This subsidence has ceased, and there is some reason to think that the land is now rising. No

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perceptible effect upon the depth of harbors, &c., has as yet been observed. Probably, also, it stretched both to the east and to the west.

One great chain of mountains runs parallel to the eastern coast from Cape York to the southern point of Tasmania. It is continued to the west through Victoria, and throughout it has formed the matrix of the gold which was subsequently disseminated by diluvial action. The highest point is Mount Kosciusko, in the Australian Alps, just within the southern boundary of New South Wales. This is the highest point in Australia, 7308 feet. On the other side of the boundary, in Victoria, the Bogong range is 6508. This range extends westward to Mount Ararat. In Tasmania, the greatest altitude is to be found at Ben Lomond and the Cradle range, both of which slightly exceed 5000 feet.

In New South Wales it is known as the Australian Alps, and the Blue Mountains, in Victoria as the Dividing Range. Its rocks are upper and lower silurian, but granite porphyry and syenite are found in conjunction with them.

In Queensland this range reaches a height of 5400 feet.

To the north-west, reaching to Carpentaria, there

is a large cretaceous formation extending for 200,000 square miles, and to the west there is a wide carboniferous system of great thickness covering 50,000 square miles. Both of these contain fossils similar to those found in Europe under analogous circumstances.

The desert sandstone, which occupies a great portion of the centre of the continent, a large portion of West Australia, the interior of South Australia, New South Wales, and the northern plains of Victoria, has puzzled geologists. Formerly it was considered to be a marine deposit, but the total absence of sea fossils, coupled with some indications of a lacustrine formation, has led recent writers to alter their opinion. They assign it to the pliocene or to the later tertiary period. Since its formation great denudation must have taken place. Rocks in the very centre of the continent standing out from the plains at an elevation of 150 feet prove that it has taken place to that extent at the least. None of the various theories propounded seem to be free from serious difficulty. Subsequent research is required to solve the mystery.

The carboniferous systems in New South Wales and in Queensland contain some of the most extensive coal-fields in the world. The coal is of excellent quality, corresponding to the best in this



country, and forms a valuable export. Mineral oils and cannel are also found.

In Victoria some small seams have been discovered, but none of a thickness which would repay work. The best authorities do not anticipate success from further search there.

Numerous extinct volcanoes are to be seen in Victoria. None are in action, but it is supposed that at a comparatively recent period they may have been. Traditions of eruptions exist amongst the Aborigines.

Basaltic plains stretch in every direction for hundreds of miles, proving the extent of volcanic action. Some of the craters are miles in diameter, some form lakes of considerable depth. The whole of the fertile western plains are of volcanic formation, as is also the adjacent portion of South Australia, and a great part of Queensland has a similar origin. A few craters are seen in New South Wales, and in the far north of Queensland extinct volcanoes and lava-flows are distinctly visible. Some slight shocks of earthquakes have been felt both in New South Wales and Victoria, but not of that severe character which have worked such destruction in New Zealand.

Some few diamonds and precious stones have been found ; the former were of good quality, but

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of such small size as to be of no commercial value. Considerable attention has been paid to mineralogy, and a catalogue of 287 distinct minerals has been published by the Government of New South Wales. Some further details of the auriferous and other formation will be found in the later chapters of this work. Comparatively little is known of those in the western and north-western districts of the continent.

## CHAPTER VII.

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

NEW South Wales, the oldest of the Australian group, was founded in 1788. The more immediate reason for its occupation arose from the necessity of finding an outlet for our criminals, who, until that time, had been sent to America.

The system of transportation was doubtless liable to many abuses, and that such existed, none can deny ; but it did not deserve all of the obloquy which was heaped upon it. Quite as large a percentage of prisoners was reformed under "assignment" as under any other plan of discipline. Little can be said in favour of the "Probation Gangs" of Van Diemen's Land ; and over the abominations of Norfolk Island, and the horrors of Port Arthur it is best to draw a veil.

The weight of argument against the continuance of it was at last overwhelming ; it had ceased to be looked upon as a punishment, and therefore failed

in its main object, namely, to deter from crime ; it damaged the character of the colony as a field for free settlement. It was hard to persuade men that emigration, for which they had to pay dearly, was a benefit, and that expatriation to the same shores at the public charge was a punishment. A serious taint at one time threatened to be a moral blot on the fair fame of Australia. This danger has happily passed away. The injustice of any such idea may be gathered from the fact that the total number transported from the commencement was 137,161, and that since the cessation of transportation in 1839, upwards of 1,000,000 of free immigrants have landed. Upwards of one-half of the population have been born in the country. In the course of forty years, since the last convict landed, the existing generation must have died out. The whole question may therefore safely be dismissed as a thing of the past, and need not further be alluded to except as a matter of history.

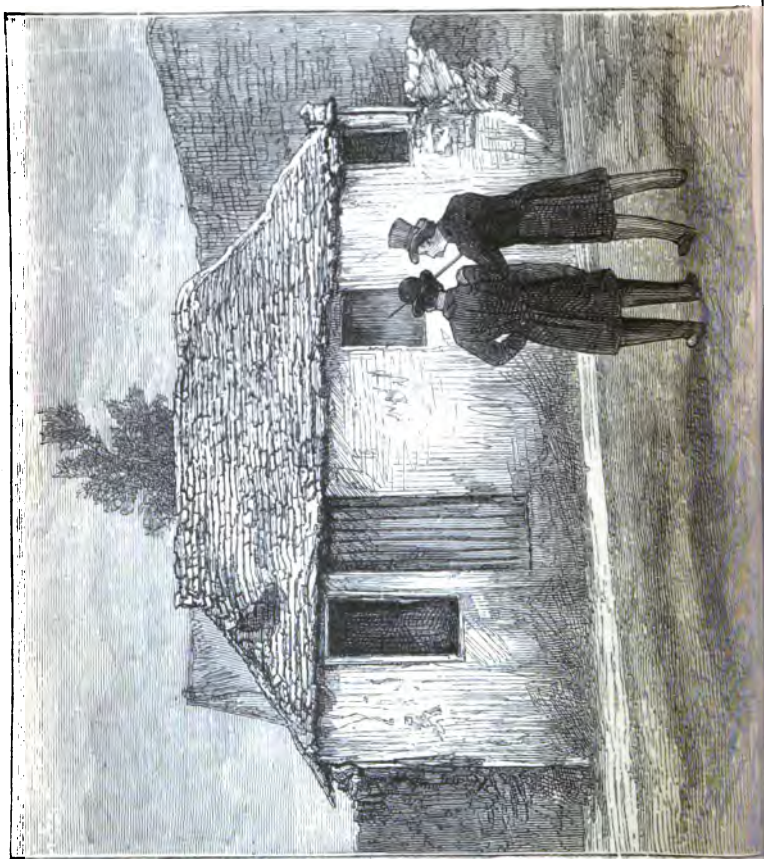
On the 13th May, 1787, the "first fleet," as it has ever since been called, consisting of eleven vessels, sailed from Portsmouth. In these 348 free persons—officers, guards, women, children, &c., were embarked, together with 504 male and 192 female prisoners. Captain Arthur Phillip, R.N., was in

charge of the expedition, which arrived after a tedious voyage of eight months.

The first attempt to land was made at Botany Bay, so-named by Sir Joseph Banks from the profusion of wild flowers abounding there. The harbour was found to be spacious, but exposed to easterly gales, and the land, where it was not swampy, was composed of sand-hills. It did not seem to be suitable for a permanent settlement, and Captain Phillip determined to select another site. He soon fixed upon the promontory where Sydney now stands, and there he disembarked on the 26th January, 1788.

Immediately on his arrival, he endeavoured to make the infant settlement independent of supplies from Europe, but his first attempts to farm at Parramatta, then called Rose Hill, were unsuccessful. This led to the occupation of Norfolk Island, from which lovely and fertile spot large supplies of corn were subsequently obtained. A penal establishment for the reception of such prisoners as it was desirable to separate from the rest, was formed in this small island, situated about 1000 miles from Sydney. The difficulty of access to the only spot on which the shore was accessible rendered escape from it all but impossible. The romantic beauty of the scene,





“Where all but the spirit of man was divine,” has been often extolled. It continued to be a dependency of New South Wales until 1844, when it was transferred to the Government of Van Diemen’s Land.

In 1856 the whole of the remainder of the prisoners were conveyed to the latter island, and Norfolk Island was occupied by 200 Pitcairn islanders, the descendants of the mutineers in the “Bounty,” in whose possession it still continues.

Captain Phillip ruled with rare ability until 1792—often under circumstances of considerable difficulty. He was succeeded by Captain John Hunter, R.N., a man of firm character and of generally sound judgment. If he had met with more loyal co-operation from his officers he might have effected greater good. A few free settlers arrived, and agriculture made some progress. The rich district of the “Cow-pastures,” about forty miles to the south-west of Sydney, was discovered by some cattle, which, having escaped from the herd, increased and multiplied. Two churches were built, one at Sydney and the other at Parramatta, the former being named St. Philip—not in honour of the apostle, but of the first governor.

Discoveries along the coast were actively pushed forward. Bass made a voyage of 600 miles in an



open boat as far as Western Port, and thus proved that Van Diemen's Land was an island. The straits dividing it from the mainland still bear his name. To the northward, Flinders sailed along the coast as far as Moreton Bay, and Lieutenant Shortland opened up the port of Newcastle, the chief *entrepôt* of the coal-fields.

Captain Philip Gidley King was the third governor. Van Diemen's Land was now colonized as a penal settlement, and a futile attempt was made to settle at Port Phillip by Captain David Collins (*vide* Victoria). This expedition was transferred to the banks of the Derwent. Geographical discoveries followed fast under the command of Grant, Murray, and Flinders. The latter not only visited many places on the southern coast, but to the north proceeded as far as Torres Straits. In his various voyages this bold seaman circumnavigated the whole of Australia and Van Diemen's Land.

Several free settlers now arrived, grants of farms upon the river Hawkesbury were made to them. For a time they prospered, but one of those floods, to which the rivers are so subject, destroyed 3500*l.* worth of produce. Danger of absolute starvation ensued, as this valley was the granary of the colony. Maize and flour sold at 2*s.* 6*d.* per pound. A 2 lb. loaf reached the price of 5*s.* For many months the

inhabitants adopted stringent measure to restrict consumption. The growth of garden vegetables was encouraged, and sea-fishing was undertaken. The crisis had passed when Captain King's term of office expired. He left the colony in August, 1806, amongst general expressions of regret.

Captain William Bligh, the hero of the mutiny of the "Bounty," and of an adventurous voyage of 3500 miles in an open boat, during which he did not lose a single person, succeeded him. The fact that he had been unfortunate in his control of men should have warned the English Government against his appointment to so difficult a charge as that of a penal settlement. Almost immediately upon his arrival he was involved in disputes with the officers of the New South Wales corps, whose conduct was in many respects open to censure. The measures which were adopted by Captain Bligh during the collision which ensued was, to say the least, ill-advised. The opposition to them culminated in an overt act of rebellion. The officers of the corps deposed him from his office on the 26th January, 1808. He was placed on board the "Porpoise," with the object of returning to England, but he did not proceed there, he lingered about Van Diemen's Land and the coast until the arrival of Colonel Lachlan Macquarrie. All the chief

colonists seem to have joined in the *émeute*: conspicuous amongst them was Mr. John Macarthur, the founder of the prosperity of his adopted country by the introduction of the merino sheep.

It must be admitted that grievous faults existed on both sides. Major Johnston was appointed as a temporary successor. When he was subsequently convicted before a court-martial held at Chelsea, and sentenced to be cashiered, a punishment so inadequate to the offence proved that the court must have felt there were extenuating circumstances.

Colonel Macquarrie was accompanied by a detachment of the regular army, and the local corps was removed to England, where it was formed into the 102nd Regiment.

The earlier difficulties of colonization had now been surmounted. The state of the settlement was well described by Macquarrie himself in his vindication of his policy from the aspersions cast upon him. He says that on his arrival,—

“I found the colony barely emerging from infantile imbecility, and suffering from various privations and disabilities. The country impenetrable beyond forty miles from Sydney, agriculture in a yet languishing state, commerce in its early dawn, revenue unknown, threatened with famine, the

public buildings in a state of dilapidation and mouldering to decay, the few roads and bridges formerly constructed rendered almost impassable, the population in general oppressed by poverty, no public credit or private confidence, the morals of the great mass of the populace in the lowest state of debasement, and religious worship almost totally neglected. . . . Such was the state of New South Wales when I took charge of its administration, on January 1, 1810. I left it in February last (1821), reaping incalculable advantages from my extensive and important discoveries in all directions, including the supposed almost impassable barrier called the 'Blue Mountains,' to the westward of which are situated the fertile plains of Bathurst, and in all respects enjoying a state of private comfort and public prosperity which I trust will at least equal the expectation of his Majesty's Government." He goes on to say that in 1810 there were: Population, 11,590; sheep, 25,888; cattle, 9544; acres in cultivation, 7615; and that in October, 1821, the population was 38,778; sheep, 290,158; cattle, 102,939; acres in cultivation, 32,267.

He did not overrate the value of the newly discovered lands, or the importance of the passage of the Blue Mountains, which opened up those vast

western plains now occupied by millions of sheep and of cattle. Bathurst, Wellington, all the country watered by the Lachlan and the Macquarrie, Liverpool Plains and New England, were explored by Oxley, who, reaching the sea at Port Macquarrie, returned to Sydney in a coasting-vessel. On his way there he discovered the river Manning. Hume and Throsby pushed to the south as far as Lake George, thus exploring the fertile district of Argyle, and opening the road to Yass and the Murrumbidgee.

The means Macquarrie adopted for the reformation and elevation of the prisoners formed matter for keen controversy.

He invited to his table, and appointed as magistrates, men whom he supposed to be reformed. These and other marks of favour towards them were deeply resented by the free settlers and by the military, who then constituted society. These classes were perhaps too rigid in the severity with which they visited the sins of the fathers upon children to the third and fourth generation. Negro blood does not more rigorously exclude from society in New York, than did the smallest taint of convictism from the social circle of the "Exclusionists" or "Pure Merinos." This unhappy division between them and the "Emancipists" lasted

until the cessation of transportation, and the flood of free emigration which then ensued completely overwhelmed the latter as a party. All animosity has now disappeared with the generation that has died out, and unpleasant traditions are discouraged.

In his vindication the Governor says :—"Even my work of charity, and, as it appeared to me, sound policy, in endeavouring to restore emancipated and reformed convicts to a level with their fellow subjects—a work which, considered either in a religious or a political point of view, I shall ever value as the most meritorious part of my administration—has not escaped animadversion."

The controversy excited much interest in England, and Mr. John Bigge was sent out in 1819 as King's Commissioner of Inquiry, with the fullest powers for investigation. Serious doubts were entertained in Downing Street, not only as to the wisdom of Macquarrie's policy, but also whether transportation had not, in consequence of it, ceased to be a terror to evil-doers.

After an inquiry spread over two years, three separate reports were forwarded ; a continuation of transportation was recommended, but several improvements in discipline were suggested. The Governor's avowed patronage of prisoners was

censured, and his liberality in the issue of pardons and indulgences was severely animadverted upon.

His financial policy had been rather singular. The balance of trade had caused a scarcity of coin. Private individuals were authorized to issue promissory notes for 5s., redeemable in copper. This "currency" was soon depreciated to the extent of 25 per cent. It was the origin of the slang term "currency," a name bestowed upon the native-born youth as contradistinguished from the "sterling," by which term the immigrant was known. Another expedient to prevent the exportation of the Spanish dollar, a coin then much in use, was to punch out the centre. The "dump" passed for 1s. 3d., and the remaining ring was declared to be still worth 5s. Old colonists were for many years familiar with the phrase the "holy dollar," but were not aware of the origin of it.

Sir Thomas Brisbane, K.C.B., who was distinguished for his scientific acquirements, followed him. The results of his administration, although not so brilliant, were attended with substantial success. During it the first Legislative Council was established, and trial by jury in criminal cases was introduced. Until this time military juries had been used. The censorship of the Press was abolished. The Australian Agricultural Company

was formed, with a capital of 1,000,000*l*. A grant of as many acres was made to this body, almost the whole of the capital being subscribed in England. The objects of the company were the growth of Merino wool, the cultivation of the vine and olive, and generally the promotion of industrial pursuits. The production of coal, a monopoly of which was injudiciously granted to it, since abolished, has continued to afford to this corporation an ample source of income, and to the present day it has continued to prosper. This monopoly has long since been abolished. Sugar was now for the first time grown at Port Macquarrie.

A general mania for speculation in stock was produced by the action of the Agricultural Company, and prices rose in a manner quite unjustified by any prudent calculations. Large sales were made on credit, and as it happened that this time of inflation was followed by a drought, which lasted with more or less severity for three years, many debtors were obliged to realize their property at an enormous sacrifice. Cattle which had been sold for 7*l*. 10*s*. were re-sold for a few shillings. Much distress ensued.

Further explorations were made by Hume and Hovell, on a journey to Port Phillip (*vide* Victoria). A penal settlement was made at Moreton Bay in



1824 ; it was maintained there until 1842, when it was withdrawn, and the district was thrown open for free settlers (*vide* Queensland).

General Darling assumed the government on December 19, 1825. Most of his many troubles were due to his identification with the "Exclusionists." There is little doubt that he came out with instructions to enforce a more rigorous discipline.

On his voyage out he touched at Van Diemen's Land, and on the 3rd December in that year proclaimed its separation from New South Wales, in accordance with the prayer of its inhabitants.

He spared himself no personal labour in performing his official duties, entering into the minutest details. He introduced many much needed reforms ; amongst others he established a Land Board, to correct abuses in the system of free grants—a fruitful source of complaint from those who attributed to personal favouritism, any decision contrary to their wishes. Much attention was also given to the construction of roads. A postal service was now introduced into the rural districts. An abortive attempt to settle at Western Port (*vide* Victoria) was made. Sturt was despatched on his marvellous voyage to the mouth of the Murray. New Zealand was now placed under the

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protection of New South Wales, a few settlers having gone from England to the Northern Island. Circuit Courts were established, and the right to sit as jurors was conceded to Emancipists in civil as well as in criminal cases. Sydney College, now the Grammar School, was founded.

Several men who afterwards attained to eminence arrived at this period. Dr. Broughton became Archdeacon, and subsequently Bishop of Australia, when that continent was separated from the diocese of Calcutta. Until then its affairs had been nominally directed from that distant see. Mr. Edward Deas Thompson came out as Clerk of the Council. He died in 1879, full of years and honour, having filled the offices of Colonial Secretary, President of the Legislative Council, and Vice-Chancellor of the University. After a service of twenty-eight years in which he was identified with the colony, he retired on his full salary, beloved and respected by all.

It was now that the public career of William Charles Wentworth commenced. After distinguishing himself at Cambridge, he practised as a barrister at Sydney, and soon became the idol of the popular party, of which he continued to be the leader for thirty years, when, after obtaining the concession of all their demands, he lost the confidence of the

more advanced members of it. This great "son of the soil" died in England, in 1871, and his body having been conveyed to the land he loved so well, the close of his eventful life was honoured by a public funeral.

The claims urged by him and his friends for freer political institutions were the natural outcome of the growth in numbers and in wealth. It may reasonably be doubted whether full power of self-government could have been safely entrusted to a people which then numbered only 36,598, inclusive of 15,728 still in servitude; of the remainder, 7530 had obtained their freedom, 8727 had been native born, and 4673 had come out from England.

In such a society many social difficulties arose. The Exclusionists, supported by the Governor, and the numerous wealthy class to which they were opposed, waged a constant war.<sup>1</sup> It led to excesses, of which all afterwards felt ashamed. General Darling retired from office on 21st October, 1831, lamented by a few staunch friends, and execrated by his enemies.

All parties were wearied with the strife, and were well disposed to welcome Sir Richard Bourke,

<sup>1</sup> We may record a current *mot* of a "pure Merino" lady: At home you talk of the *crème de la crème*, here it is *crime du crime*.

K.C.B., who arrived on December 2nd, 1831, as eighth Governor. Before entering the army he had studied for the bar, and this education expanded his naturally great ability. He may be said to have revolutionized the whole system of Government, and to have inaugurated a new era.

Free grants of land, an endless source of jobs and cause of discontent, were abolished, excepting such as were made for public purposes. All country land was sold by auction, at a minimum upset price of 5s. per acre, a higher value being affixed as an upset price to town allotments. Convict discipline was regulated and improved, many abuses in "assignment" were rectified, and undue severity of punishment mitigated, the administration of justice was extended and rendered more efficient. Many, however, objected to his measures.

The fund arising from the sale of crown lands, destined to rise to millions, amounted, in its infancy in 1832, to little more than 12,000*l.*; in five years this had increased to 129,000*l.* This afforded the means to defray the cost of free immigration, upon which nearly 100,000*l.* was expended by Sir R. Bourke. In the first instance this immigration was confined to the introduction of females, an attempt being thus made to rectify the disproportion of the two sexes. A liberal law

establishing perfect religious equality was enacted. It provided that stipends should be paid by the Treasury to ministers of all denominations in proportion to the numbers of their congregations; grants of land for glebes and churches, and of money for their erection, were made without any preference. The Church and School Corporation, which had been endowed with one-seventh of the lands of the colony, was dissolved. The churches of England and of Rome received more complete organization; Archdeacon Broughton and Dr. Polding were consecrated as bishops of their respective communions.

The great pastoral pursuit to which the name of "squatting" has since been applied, at this time sprang into existence. The term was first used to describe a class of men who took illegal possession of crown lands, who lived chiefly by depredation on their neighbour's herds. To check this practice, it was enacted that no occupation of crown lands should be permitted except to holders of annual licences, issued at a small charge; and thus the pastoral interest, which has since extended over half the continent, and become a preponderating political power, was unintentionally established. Without such an easy mode of legal occupancy, the great discoveries soon afterwards made by Sir

Thomas Mitchell could not have been utilized so quickly.

That energetic Surveyor-General followed the course of the Darling nearly to its junction with the Murray, in 1835. In the following year he resumed his journey, and having travelled along the banks of the latter river, crossed its stream, pushed on to the south west until he reached the coast at Portland Bay, traversing that rich district called by him "Australia Felix." His glowing accounts produced great excitement in England, and contributed to that rapid flood of emigration from the country and the adjacent colonies which founded Victoria (*vide* Victoria). The boundless pastures now for the first time made known, gave an unexampled impulse to "squatting." Numerous herds of cattle and flocks of sheep hurried to fresh fields and pastures new, a delirium of excitement ensued. Sheep rose to a price of 3*l.*, to be re-sold before many years at as many shillings; the temporary prosperity and future prospects appeared to be unbounded. In the midst of it Sir R. Bourke visited the new district, proclaimed and named the town of Melbourne in 1836, and in the following year returned to Europe. Under his administration the population had nearly doubled, and a still greater increase had

taken place in stock: The rapid growth of population and of property added strength to claims for political enfranchisement, which was so soon afterwards effected.

When Sir Richard Bourke left Sydney, in December, 1835, the colony was in a state of great prosperity. After an interregnum until the following February, during which Colonel Snodgrass administered the government, Sir George Gipps assumed the command. He was a man of ability, but haughty, and violent in temper. His undisguised contempt for his opponents, and his hostility to anything in the shape of a job, led him into frequent collisions, in which he generally came off superior. These conflicts earned for him many undying hatreds, which embittered his reign. On the other hand, it must be admitted that his obstinacy and violence of temper often gave to his enemies a great advantage, and on his departure he could reckon but few friends.

The demands of the colonists for freer institutions continued to grow in strength; that they were in themselves reasonable, and founded in justice, may be inferred from the fact, that all, and more than was asked, was conceded after full discussion by the liberality of the Imperial Parliament.

Many important changes were made during his

administration. Assignment of prisoners was abolished, and the whole system of transportation ceased on August 1, 1840. This involved the necessity of a large free immigration, and for this purpose the newly-created land fund afforded a ready resource. The large and sudden absorption of capital thus produced was one of the chief causes of the frightful financial crisis which soon followed, and the improvidence with which large liabilities, amounting to 900,000*l.*, were incurred by the Executive rightly drew down a severe rebuke from Lord John Russell, the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Without this aggravation, sufficient reasons for the crisis could be found in the undue inflation and extravagant speculation of the preceding years. These had been encouraged by the introduction of large English capital by the Bank of Australasia, the Union Bank, and of loan companies. These suddenly flooded the country with foreign capital. A severe drought affecting both the pastoral and agricultural interests, and a fall in the price of wool in England, precipitated the panic. The great increase in flocks and herds outstripped the growth of population. The census taken in 1841 gave the whole number as being 130,856, of these 87,298 were males, and 43,558 were females. Overtrading



likewise affected the commercial class, and the failure of the Bank of Australia necessitated the realization of many securities. In such a limited market, stock became unsaleable. At a sheriff's sale sheep were sold at sixpence a head, and instances are mentioned in which the fleece at the time of sale was worth more than the price paid for the animal.

People blamed everybody but themselves. The Imperial Act of Parliament raising the price of land in Moreton Bay and Port Phillip to 1*l.*, and in New South Wales to 12*s.* per acre—soon afterwards increased to 1*l.*—was loudly denounced. It was alleged that these high prices had destroyed the land fund, and that thus a stop had been put to immigration. This source of revenue in 1840 reached 316,000*l.*; in the following year it had fallen to 90,000*l.*; and in the first quarter of 1842 had only realized 4000*l.*, barely enough to defray the cost of survey. Other criticisms upon the measures of the Executive, more or less well founded, were freely indulged in.

But this depression, like others before it, was not destined to be permanent. It occurred to Mr. Henry O'Brien, a settler at Yass, that the tallow in a sheep exceeded in value the price obtainable for the living animal, and that by "boiling down," a

practically unlimited article of export could be obtained. Experiment proved that a value of 5s. per carcase could thus be realized. The want of a market was thus supplied, and a certain income secured, although it might not equal the dreams once so freely indulged in.

The period of political pupilage had now passed and the time had come when partial powers of self-government were to be entrusted to the colonists. A Legislative Council, consisting of fifty-four members, of whom one-third was nominated by the Crown and two-thirds were elected by the new constituencies, was summoned. The qualification for a member was fixed at 2000*l.* worth of freehold land, and the electors consisted of freeholders of 200*l.*, and householders of 20*l.* annual value. A civil list of 81,000*l.* was reserved to the Crown.

The control and management of the Crown lands was not handed over to the new Legislature, but remained as before in the hands of the Executive. A proposed increase in the charge made for the temporary use of Crown lands—in other words, for adding to the payments made by the “squatters”—was opposed upon constitutional grounds. It was alleged that the Royal prerogative could not be used to add to taxation. The whole of the pastoral interest was united in their opposition. Their in-

fluence in the Legislature procured addresses and remonstrance to the British Ministry. The Pastoral Association was formed, and petitions were forwarded, asking for fixity of tenure, leases, and right of pre-emption. These claims were opposed by the Governor, who in a series of able despatches exposed their unreasonable and mischievous nature. Many of the popular leaders soon perceived the mistake they had been led into, and too late attempted to retrieve their error.

Many of these claims had been already conceded. The whole country was subdivided into the settled, intermediate, and unsettled districts. In the two latter, leases for eight and for fourteen years were granted, and a right of pre-emption extending over the whole "run" was sanctioned. These provisions were found to be wholly incompatible with the altered state of the country, when land supposed to be pastoral was found to be auriferous, and they have been much curtailed by subsequent legislation. These modifications, the justice and policy of which have been much disputed, have left but little ground of complaint as to the mode in which Crown lands are leased. The claims put forward originally caused keen political feeling ; this was in full activity when Sir George Gipps' term of office expired. He returned to

England respected by all, but regretted by few. It was during his administration that Count Paul E. von Strzlecki, a scientific Polish refugee, discovered the fertile district of Gipps Land, the eastern portion of Port Phillip, and that the ill-fated Leichardt undertook his first great exploration. After many months' absence, Leichardt succeeded in forcing his way from Brisbane to Port Essington, thus making known a large and fertile country in the north-west of that colony. Fêtes, pecuniary rewards, honours and medals from scientific societies in London, were heaped upon him and his gallant associates. These stimulated that ambition which led to his untimely end. He attempted to cross the continent from east to west. The last heard of the expedition was on the 26th February, 1848. Many rumours have been circulated as to the fate of these brave men, but no trace of them has been really ascertained by those sent out in search for them.

On Sir Charles Fitzroy's accession a great change of policy was at once evident. Conciliation and concession replaced violence and obstinacy. Sir Charles did not get credit for the personal attention which he really did bestow on the affairs of State. He assumed a careless air; and the story was current that he expressed his surprise that

his predecessor "could have allowed himself to be bothered about anything in such a glorious climate." The only real trouble he experienced was caused by an ill-advised attempt on the part of the Imperial Government to renew transportation to New South Wales, in a very modified form and accompanied with advantages of a very material nature. The proposal met with all but unanimous condemnation. Some of the large employers of labour had sufficient weight in the Legislature to gain a vote in its favour, and this encouraged the English Ministry to persevere in the measure. This temporary success was soon overbalanced by the torrent of public opinion. The opposition was maintained for years and daily increased in strength; it was eagerly supported in Victoria, in Tasmania, and in South Australia, and never ceased until transportation even to Western Australia was finally abolished in 1868.

The liberal policy upon general subjects disarmed much opposition. The Executive ceased to be the constant object of attack. The land question, the orders in Council, immigration, education, the coal monopoly, the university, the introduction of railways, the establishment of steam communication with England, formed subjects for debate and legislation.

An Act of the Imperial Parliament provided for the separation of Port Phillip from New South Wales (*vide* Victoria), the details being left to the existing Council. This duty having been performed, the first Legislative Council expired by efflux of time. It can safely be said that for intellect and eloquence it has not been exceeded by any since elected.

Events now occurred which completely altered the destiny of Australia. California had attracted many adventurers from her shores, amongst them Edward Hamond Hargraves. He was struck with the close resemblance of the rocks in the two countries. On his return he determined to search for the precious metal, and on February 12, 1851, "struck gold," at Lewis Ponds Creek, thus verifying the predictions of Sir Roderic Murchison, of Count Strzlecki, and of the Rev. W. B. Clarke, whose geological knowledge enabled them to foresee the future. Count Strzlecki had, in 1839, at an expense to himself of nearly 5000*l.*, established the fact of the existence of auriferous quartz at Wellington; but at the short-sighted request of Sir George Gipps had concealed the knowledge. In the earlier days several alleged discoveries in gold had been reported, and one or two cases are mentioned of convicts being flogged for being in

possession of gold, said by them to have been found in the bush. Isolated nuggets had been picked up in 1848-9 in the Pyrenees and at Daisy Hill, in Victoria ; but to Hargraves belongs the credit of being the first to practically develop the golden treasure of the land. For this service a grateful country awarded him 10,000*l.*, to which subsequently Victoria added above 2000*l.* The researches of the Rev. W. B. Clarke proved of such use that 5000*l.* was also voted to him.

The first "nugget" (the derivation of the word is not known), weighing thirteen ounces, was found at Summerhill, and the "gold fever" immediately set in ; reports of similar "finds" followed in rapid succession ; business was abandoned ; from all points of the compass men flocked to the new "El Dorado"—one traveller counted 1800 men in one day *en route* to Bathurst ; all industries were thrown into confusion. The movement was looked upon with alarm, if not with dismay. The Government, partly with a view to check it, partly with the object of raising funds to defray the extra expense caused by the "diggers," imposed upon them a charge of 30*s.* per month for a licence to search for gold. This impost was for some time cheerfully paid.

The advent of free institutions was accelerated

by these events. The large increase of population drawn to the colony necessitated and justified still further concessions, and the impossibility of directing from Downing Street affairs which varied from day to day became more apparent. Sir John Pakington, then Secretary for the Colonies, determined to grant all that Wentworth and his friends had asked. The Legislative Council was authorised to frame for itself a Constitution, to be embodied in an Act of the Imperial Parliament. A Select Committee was therefore appointed to draft a Bill for the purpose. This Bill was after much debate read a third time on 21st December, 1853, by a majority of twenty-seven to six.

Two Houses of Parliament were formed. The Upper House, consisting of not less than twenty-one members, to be nominated by the Crown for five years ; those then in office, and all subsequently nominated, were to sit for life ; the President was to be nominated by the Crown. The Lower House, of fifty-four members, was to be elected for five years. The qualification of members and of electors was to be the same, namely, a freehold of 100*l.*, and householders and leaseholders 10*l.* per annum—squatters, recipients of salaries of 100*l.* a year, and lodgers paying 40*l.* a year, were added. A power of altering these provisions was embodied in the Bill. This



power has been exercised ; the franchise is now extended to every male of twenty-one years of age resident for six months in any electoral district prior to the compilation of the annual list of voters, and to any non-residents possessed of a very small property qualification. Resolutions to the effect that every claim of the colonists had been embodied in the Bill were passed by a majority of twenty-two to two ; and Wentworth, who was looked upon as the author, and Mr. Deas Thomson, who had ably assisted him, were deputed to proceed to England to promote its progress through the Imperial Parliament. An address to the former expressed the high sense entertained of his services throughout his long career, especially in founding the University and in framing the Constitution. Mr. Deas Thomson's numerous friends presented him with a testimonial of 2250*l.*, the greater portion of which he devoted to the foundation of the Thomson scholarship in the University. During seventeen years he had been Colonial Secretary, and had often been obliged to expose himself to obloquy for the acts of the Governor of which he did not approve. This proof of the real esteem in which he was held was, therefore doubly valuable.

The outbreak of the Crimean war led to the consideration of measures for the defence of the

harbour. An outburst of enthusiastic loyalty not only found fit expression in addresses to the Queen, but in the transmission of 30,000*l.* to the Patriotic Fund. Australia has never been wanting in liberality, and proofs of sympathy with the mother country. A recent example has been afforded by the munificent subscription of 60,000*l.* for the relief of distress in Ireland.

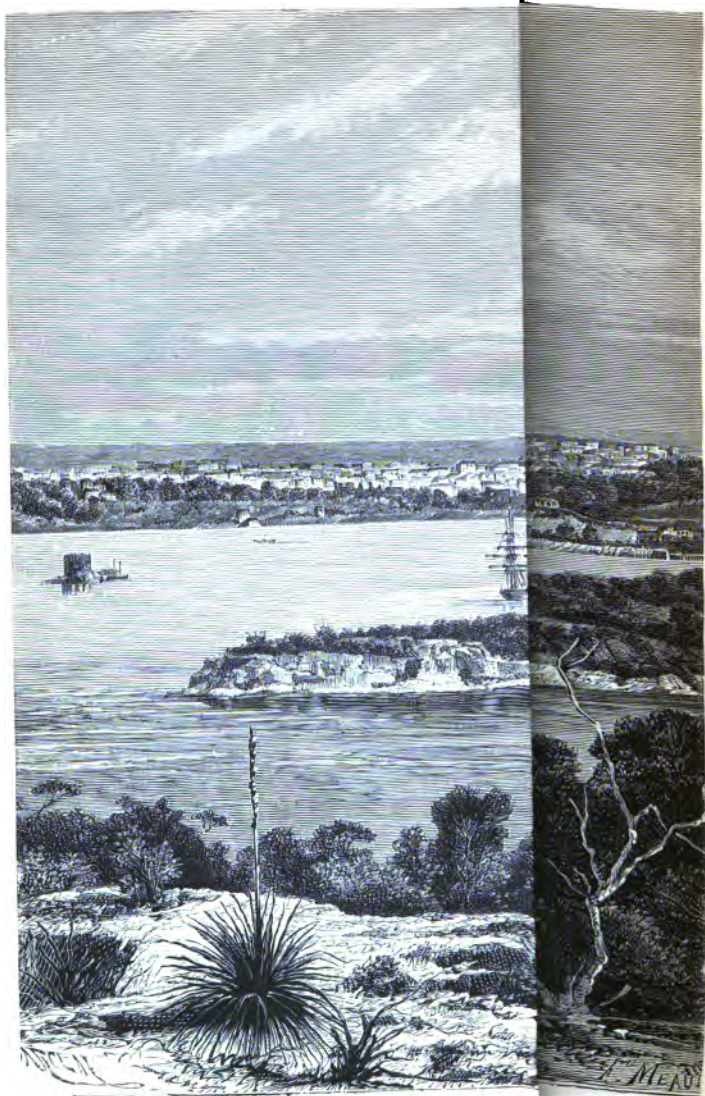
Some delay in passing the Constitution Act was caused by the Russian war. Many useful measures were introduced—to promote immigration to establish a branch of the Royal Mint, and for the construction of railways. The first sod of the latter was turned by the Governor's daughter, Mrs, Keith Stewart, on July 1st, 1850. A contract was entered into with the Peninsular and Oriental Company, for the conveyance of a bi-monthly mail; but this was soon afterwards abandoned in consequence of the war.

The time for Sir Charles Fitzroy's departure now approached. Addresses, notwithstanding the violent opposition of Dr. Lang, were voted by a majority of 22 to 6. That he had his failings was undeniable, but he left Australia a popular man, in 1855.

Since the introduction of ministerial responsibility to the Legislature twenty-four years ago,

there have been nineteen changes of Ministry. The constant recurrence of the same names may lead by-standers to think that personal ambition rather than a conflict of principle has often been the cause. The material interests of the country, however, continued to progress, as will be seen in the ensuing chapter. Some good legislation was accomplished; public works were pushed forward; jobs in them were perpetrated and exposed; large sums were expended and wasted in attempts to provide drainage for Sydney. Measures have been adopted, for the efficient defence of the harbour. The plans of Sir William Jervois have now been adopted, and are in progress. These are improvements upon, and more extensive, than the works projected by Sir William Dennison, who followed Sir Charles Fitzroy as Governor—his education in the Royal Engineers rendered him peculiarly fit to deal with that problem. He and Sir Charles Fitzroy were styled "Governors-General;" they were supposed to have some sort of pre-eminence over the other Governor. Sir John Young (Lord Lisgar) succeeded him in May, 1861, with the title of "Governor-in-Chief:" this has continued to be the style. His geniality and hospitality won for him a large share of popularity. He retired in January, 1868, and the Earl of Bel-





more was appointed in his room, who resigned the post in 1872.

Sir Hercules Robinson succeeded. His activity and sporting tastes endeared him to the populace, while his solid talents were appreciated by those conversant with public affairs.

Lord Augustus Loftus, the present Governor, assumed the office only in 1879.

Probably it would puzzle these, and other Australian Governors, to discern what were the differences of policy, the causes of such rapid changes of Ministry. Party spirit, it is true, runs high, and the names of Conservative and Liberal are freely used. These words are wholly inappropriate. It was truly observed in our hearing by a shrewd observer, "A colonial Conservative is a man who can swallow only four points of the Charter."

Ballot, manhood suffrage, triennial parliaments, abolition of a property qualification, have all been adopted. The fifth point, payment of members, is still disputed.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

IN New South Wales, the oldest Australian colony, 900 miles in length by an average of 500 in breadth, there is every variety of soil and of scenery. On the coast at Sydney, the Hawkesbury, at Illawarra, and more especially in the Blue Mountains, glorious landscapes delight the eye, but truth compels the admission that the general appearance of the country is tame and sad. An interminable forest of gum-trees wearies the traveller, while here and there extensive plains, at Liverpool, Yass, and Maneroo (pronounced Monēra), present a striking contrast. The Hunter, the Richmond, the Manning, the Clarence, the Hawkesbury, and some smaller rivers, subject as they all are to violent inundations, have formed along their banks alluvial deposits of unsurpassed richness ; and in some other places—at Camden, Goulburn, Illawarra, and Shoal-

haven, a considerable extent of good land may be found, but the far larger part of the land between the Blue Mountains and the Pacific is of the poorest description. This belt of land, about fifty miles in breadth, is nevertheless the chief seat of population ; all the principal towns are situated in it, Bathurst, with its 6000 inhabitants, being the largest town to the westward of the "dividing range."

At some points, these mountains spread out, and in some they attain a considerable altitude. Mount Kosciusko, on the borders of Gipps Land, covered with continual glaciers, has an elevation of 7308 feet ; and in the north several peaks attain heights varying from 3000 to 6000 feet. The dividing range reaches from Carpentaria in the extreme north, to the south of Victoria, and reappears again in Tasmania. It is composed principally of paleozoic and igneous rocks, dividing the mesozoic and extensive carboniferous formations on the east from the great tertiary formation which extends to the western shore of the continent. The great coal-field on the Hunter, reappearing again at Illawarra, probably underlies the whole country between this range and the sea. The mountains themselves contain incalculable wealth. Mr. Inglis, in his amusing work ("Our Australian Cousins"), says, "The rock all over this



country is permeated with bands of ironstone, and much mineral wealth lies sealed up in every rocky ravine and gorge, waiting the touch of those mighty magicians, labour and capital, to unfold their treasures. Already coal, iron, kerosene-shale, fire-clay, and other valuable minerals, are successfully worked ; and evidences of lead, antimony, and silver are not absent. Of course, nearly all the country has been snapped up and acquired by capitalists long ago. It may probably yet prove the 'Black country' of Australia."

The rivers running from either side of this watershed are of most unequal length. Those on the east are for the most part short streams, subject to violent floods, falling into the Pacific ; while on the west, the Murrumbidgee, rising within thirty miles of that ocean, pursues its course for 1350 miles to its junction with the Murray. This latter, the greatest of Australian rivers, also rises near the eastern coast. It receives the waters of the Goulburn, the Loddon, the Canpaspeo, and other southern streams ; and further to the west, all the northern floods from Queensland, conducted to it through the Lachlan and the Darling—after a course of 2400 miles, it discharges the drainage of one half of the continent upon the south-western shore, near to Adelaide. The rivers Lachlan and Darling alone drain

a district of 200,000 miles. All these rivers are subject to the most violent floods.

At other times the drought is so severe, that little or no water flows from what appears to be a parched desert. These streams, now navigated as far as Fort Bourke and Albury (*vide* South Australia), have given the name of Riverina to the vast dreary plains which constitute the interior of New South Wales as far as the boundary of South Australia, 900 miles to the west of Sydney. These arid steppes are the principal seat of the great pastoral industry which has made New South Wales famous. All the available portions of them are now fenced in with timber and with iron wire, enclosing paddocks of many thousand acres each. This large outlay of capital is amply repaid by the economy of labour. Sheep are no longer shepherded, and folded within hurdles, as in olden times; a few "boundary riders," to see that the fences are in repair, now constitute the staff of a station. This system now prevails in all the colonies except in North Queensland, where there has not been sufficient time to enclose the land. The whole of New South Wales is divided into 118 counties and thirteen pastoral districts.

Sydney, the capital, the commercial centre, is situated on a noble harbour, celebrated as much for

## CHAPTER X.

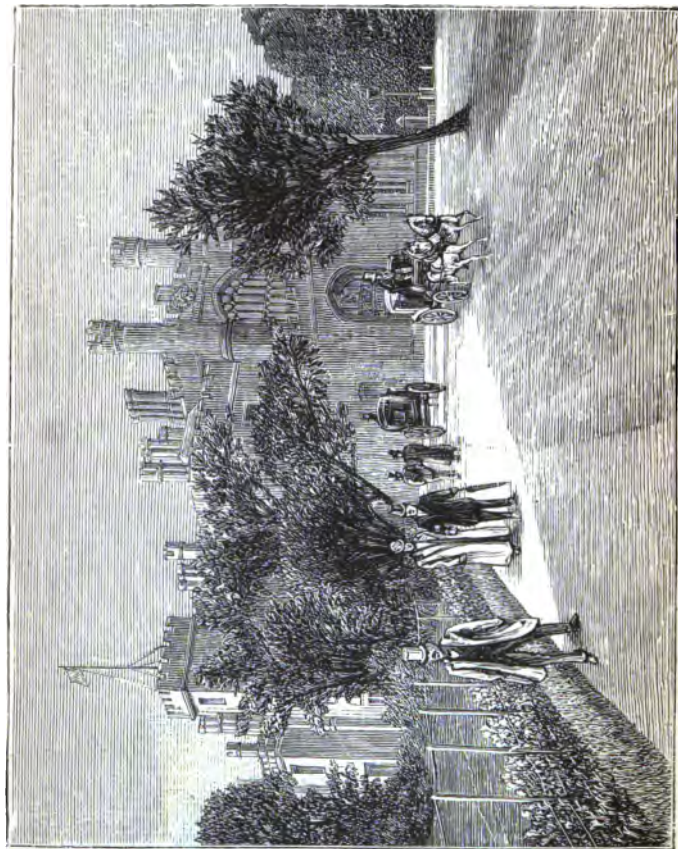
## VICTORIA.

PORT PHILLIP BAY, nearly circular, about forty miles in diameter, is entered from Bass Straits through the "Heads," a narrow opening about a mile in width.

On either side the land lies low. On the west is the fashionable watering-place of Queenscliff, with its numerous villas; on the east is the Quarantine Station and the village of Sorrento, a favourite resort for holiday-makers from Melbourne. A range of hills, which some imaginative Scot named Arthur's Seat, closes in the view. Schnapper Point, Brighton, and St. Kilda, with their miles of marine villas, line the eastern shore, while at a distance of twenty miles the dark ranges of Dandenong, a spur of the Gipps Land mountains, form a gloomy background. On the western shore is the town of Geelong, on the fine

Bay of Corio, thence a plain of good grazing but treeless downs, diversified by the single picturesque peak of the "Anakies," extends for the whole distance to Melbourne. Beauty is not the characteristic of the Bay. The shipping lies securely at its northern end, and discharges its freight at Sandridge, on the Hobson's Bay Railway Pier, or at Williamstown, whence another railway leads to Melbourne; it is in direct communication with the whole railway system.

Melbourne itself is situated on the Yarra, seven miles from its mouth, but it can be reached in two miles from Sandridge. Great improvements in the navigation of the river and for the making of docks have been recently commenced. The recommendations of Sir John Coode, C.E., have been adopted by the Harbour Trust. The Yarra is not only to be dredged, but its course is to be shortened by a canal. Large docks are projected, one of which will be sufficient for present requirements. In it the largest vessels now afloat will be safely berthed. This dock, in the city itself, will be in immediate contiguity to the Central Railway Terminus. Large wharf accommodation along the river banks is also to be provided for smaller ships. Williamstown and Sandridge are to have a depth of twenty-eight feet of water at their piers. A



GOVERNMENT HOUSE (SIR GEORGE GIPPS, 1845).

Melbourne. Honourable mention must, however, be made of the University, the Museum, the Public Library, the new City Hall, and a few others, including Government House.

The natural beauty and advantages of the neighbourhood render it a favourite place for residence. Opulent merchants and settlers live in luxury along the roads to the South Head, to Bondi, and Coogee. The north shore with its endless variety, Manly beach, Clontarf, and the Parramatta River now navigated by small steamers for twenty miles, afford resources for enjoyment not often equalled. The town next in importance is that of Newcastle, the present centre of the coal trade, and of the rich agricultural district of the Hunter. It is as smoky, dirty, and unhealthy as its name-sake in England. It has a population of 10,000, and is the seat of a Bishop of the Church of England. The first occupant of that see, Dr. Tyrrell, left by his will 200,000*l.* towards its endowment. Goulburn, which gives its name to another diocese, and Bathurst, are both thriving towns with above 5000 inhabitants. There are about thirty other towns with a smaller population. Wollongong, in Illawarra, will probably rise to importance. Excellent and easily worked coal is abundant in immediate contiguity to a fair port.

The last report of the Registrar-General ends on 31st December, 1878 ; unless when otherwise specified, the following figures relate to that year.<sup>1</sup> It appears from his report that the population was 693,743, the increase in that year being 31,531, or 4·76 per cent. This very rapid addition was mainly due to the excess of immigration over emigration—16,996 were thus accounted for ; the excess of births over deaths was considerably above that witnessed in older countries.

The social condition of the people may be inferred from other figures taken from the same report. The total number of churches of all denominations was 1250, showing an increase of 64 during the year ; the average attendance was above 200,000. There were 631 registered ministers of religion ; of these there were belonging to the Church of England 207 ; there were 164 Roman Catholic, 89 Wesleyan, and 83 Presbyterian. The census returned 229,243 as members of the Church of England, 149,932 as Roman Catholics, 49,122 as Presbyterians, and 36,275 as Wesleyans ; of twenty-six other denominations, none numbered 10,000.

The Report of the Council of Education states

<sup>1</sup> While these pages were in the press more recent returns have come to hand. These bring down some of the tables to the end of another year. They will be found in the Appendix.

the funds at their disposal for primary education, inclusive of 69,028*l.* derived from school fees, was 437,605*l.*; of this they had expended on salaries, buildings, &c., 410,725*l.*; that there were 1187 schools, an increase of 70 upon the previous year; and 128,125 pupils, of whom 10,873 had been added within a twelvemonth. Of these children, 35,028 were in denominational schools. In addition to these, there were 543 private schools, educating 18,743 pupils; and Sunday schools had an average attendance of 64,576. The inspection is considered to be efficient, and its results are looked upon as satisfactory.

New South Wales deserves the credit of having founded the first University in the southern hemisphere. An Act for its incorporation, and endowment with 5000*l.* a year, was introduced by Mr. W. C. Wentworth in 1849, and three years afterwards the institution was inaugurated under Sir Charles Nicholson, its first Chancellor. Its degrees are admitted as equivalent to those of any British University. The buildings are creditable, the hall being of especial beauty, and strictly in character. The course is secular, religious instruction being given in affiliated colleges, supported by the Churches of England and of Rome and by the Presbyterian body. Private liberality has founded



ten scholarships ; in addition there are fellowships, bursaries, exhibitions, and other prizes. The late Mr. William Macleay, in addition to 6000*l.* to maintain a curator, has left his very extensive museum of natural history and his valuable library to the University. In the present year the late Mr. Challis left to it a legacy of 100,000*l.*

The number of degrees conferred has been 228. The students attending lectures were 62, and the matriculations 24. Middle-class examinations were held, at which 41 seniors and 243 juniors passed. The expenditure in the year amounted to 10,849*l.* ; of this only 324*l.* was derived from college fees. An unwise and illiberal Bill to deprive the University of its right to elect a member of the Lower House of Legislature, is now before that body. It presents a strong contrast to the enlightened policy of encouragement to education, heretofore characteristic of all these colonies.

Intellectual culture is provided in the Academy of Art in Sydney, and in seventy-six schools of art, literary institutes, &c., in the provinces. The Public Library, containing 37,143 volumes, was attended by 117,000 readers. The museum had been visited by 96,830 persons.

A study of the figures in the Appendices will prove the material prosperity which has attended

on well-directed labour. The exports were 12,965,879*l.*, being 19*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per head; and the imports were 14,768,873*l.*, being 21*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* per head, of the whole population. Nearly one half of this trade was with the United Kingdom, a proof of the importance to it of its colonial empire. Of this grand total, only 1,409,711*l.* imports, and 483,199*l.* exports, were the result of trade with foreigners, a fact worthy of the attention of all who advocate an Imperial Zollverein.

The chief article of export was wool; this amounted to 5,723,316*l.*, the produce of 23,967,053 sheep. The importance of the pastoral interest may be seen from these figures, from the facts that 35,435 distinct persons are directly interested in it, that in addition to these flocks they own 2,771,583 cattle, and 336,468 horses. The mortgages upon this stock, and liens upon wool held by the banks and merchants, amounted to 2,773,621*l.*

A more recent return, states, that in 1880 the number of holdings above one acre was 39,918, that there were 489,404 acres in cultivation, that there were above 16,000,000 of freehold land enclosed but not cultivated. It is computed that something like 170,000,000 of acres still remain for sale. This includes a very large proportion of mountain and of waste land. All that is of any

present use is held under pastoral leases from the Government.

It has often been doubted whether agriculture has been remunerative in New South Wales. The large squatters generally maintain that it has not been, and never can be so. It never has been tried upon the same gigantic scale as in America—but has been confined chiefly to the class of small farmers. This may in part account for the fact that no fortune has ever been realized from it. Mr. Foster, late Agent-General, in his pamphlet, writes:—

“In New South Wales agriculture proper, or the pure and simple cultivation of the soil, has seldom or ever proved profitable, and to become so it requires to be combined with some other sort of farming or business, generally with the depasturing of stock. In New Zealand and in South Australia agriculture is said to be carried on under more favourable conditions in places not far from water-carriage.”

Such remarks are more or less applicable to this popular pursuit in any part of the world. When scientific experience of the effect of the climate has proved what are the most valuable crops, the farmer in New South Wales should not have cause to complain.

Many Indian products can be grown. Tobacco and sugar in the northern districts may prove to be more profitable than wheat. Sericulture has been recommended, but it is hard to see how it or the growth of cotton can be maintained in competition with cheaper labour in other countries.

Mr. Forster thus epitomizes the land laws :—

“The advantages they hold out on the face of them for the classes of working-men can scarcely be denied. They offer a selection from about 18,000,000 of acres of waste land, of tracts of land surveyed or unsurveyed, and varying from forty to 640 acres at the option of the person selecting, in any part of the colony, at an almost nominal price of 20s. per acre, payable in the form of a deposit of 5s. per acre, the balance being allowed to remain unpaid as a debt to the State for a certain number of years, again at the option of the person selecting, and at the low rate of interest of five per cent., with entry and occupation in the meantime, and right of practical freehold after a residence of three years, which becomes actual on full payment, and of alienation after twelve months’ residence accompanied by improvements upon the land selected to the value of the total price per acre. The offer of these advantages has already operated so strongly on the Anglo-Celtic hunger for land and hearth, that

about 12,000,000 of acres have been alienated in New South Wales, to 'conditional purchasers,' as they are technically called."

The mineral wealth of this colony is but imperfectly ascertained. It is as yet the only colony in which coal has been largely raised, this element of prosperity must in the future tend to the development of manufacturing industries. There are at this date thirty collieries at work. These produced 1,557,497 tons, the average selling price of which was 11s. 7½d., giving an aggregate value of 915,228*l*. In these mines 4810 colliers were employed. The coal is quite equal to that in England both for household purposes and for the manufacture of gas. It has been largely exported to India, China, and the western coast of America. Shale and kerosene oil have already been worked to a small extent, but they are believed to be abundant.

8,811,345 ozs. of gold, valued at 32,615,375*l*., have been raised since the first discovery of that metal. The most productive year was 1862, when 616,909 ozs. rewarded the miners' toil. In 1878 this amount had fallen to 117,977 ozs. The mode of working in quartz and in alluvial deposits is the same as in Queensland and Victoria.

"Payable quartz" has been found at Adelong,

at the depth of 800 feet, the deepest sinking in New South Wales.

Copper has been found in several districts; 4000 tons were brought to market in 1878. Tin to the value of 92,000*l.* was raised in New England on the confines of Queensland.

Iron is widely diffused; the ore is of extraordinary richness, but want of carriage, high wages, and distance from coal, have hitherto prevented its use.

Precious stones have been picked up over a very wide space, but so far none of any commercial value have been found. Their existence is therefore only interesting in a scientific point of view. Possibly they may be the precursors of diamond-fields, as isolated nuggets were of the gold of Australia.

Easy means of transit have always been found essential towards opening up a country. The Government have already expended 9,784,645*l.* on completed railways, and 493,206*l.* on others as yet unfinished;<sup>2</sup> some of these works are models of engineering skill. The "Great Zigzag," by means

<sup>2</sup> In the Governor's speech, in August, 1880, he stated that in the current year 223 additional miles had been opened, and that when existing contracts were fulfilled, the total mileage would be raised to 1000 miles.

of which the Blue Mountains are passed at a summit level of 3658 feet, may be named as a triumph of science over apparently insurmountable obstacles. Six hundred and eighty-eight miles were open in 1878, the net earnings being 366,000*l.*, nearly 4 per cent. upon the total cost. These earnings are certain to increase, and after defraying the whole of the interest on the loan contracted in England for railway construction, will yield a small revenue to the colony. A bold and enlightened policy will thus have procured the inestimable advantage without any expense to New South Wales.

In 1878 there was above 500,000*l.* expended upon roads and bridges, almost the whole of which had been defrayed from the Consolidated revenue. The same source had also provided 218,000*l.* for the improvement of harbours and rivers, and 263,466*l.* for public buildings.

This expenditure of the public funds should be remembered when the account of Australian taxation is considered. These are works of necessity in a new country. They have been provided for elsewhere by private enterprise, in the course of centuries.

The post office had carried in that year 18,159,780 letters, and 9,469,800 newspapers, over post roads measuring 20,000 miles. That department had

the control of 11,760 miles of telegraph lines, erected at a cost of 413,258*l.*, along the wires of which 1,124,854 messages had been transmitted.

A cynic has remarked that "nothing was more fallacious than figures, except facts;" but such figures and facts afford a good criterion of the social condition of the oldest of the colonies; even these have been quite eclipsed, as the ensuing chapters will show.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> This may be the most convenient place to introduce the following extract, inasmuch as the export of meat affects the interests of all the colonies, but more especially that of New South Wales, the greatest producer of stock. It is obvious that if the more delicate kinds of fish and of fruit can be safely introduced, the carriage of meat must be comparatively easy. "The 'Orient' is fitted with a refrigerator on the Bell-Coleman principle, in which the fish, flesh, fowl, and some fruit were preserved. The company was, in the first instance, invited to a luncheon consisting of these viands. Everything on the table was stated to be Australian, even the bread being made of flour from that country. The *menu* included a soup from Sydney oysters, and clear soup from Australian beef, a pudding of Australian oysters in the fish course, fresh 'snapper,' and Murray Bay cod. All these had been stored in the refrigerator of the vessel, and there was nothing in the flavour to denote that they had come so long a distance. Next came some good lamb cutlets; but the fillets of beef, while very tender and juicy, were of a darker colour than prejudiced meat-eaters in this country would care for. Roast goose, haunch of mutton, ham, tongue, and pork, all excellent in taste and appearance, followed. The vegetables included green peas, asparagus, artichokes, forced tomatoes, beans; and the fruits, Queensland pineapples, Victorian strawberries, and Sydney oranges. It was stated by the chairman, Mr. C. Green (Green and Sons), 'that her Majesty had accepted a present of specimens of the food produce of Australia brought over by the 'Orient.' Sir D. Cooper



expressed the hope that the trade in these meats would be allowed to develop itself—that there should be no encouragement given to such attempts as were made in other exports of meat from Australia, to force the sale, but to let the demand bring supply. Sir A. Blyth said he never wished to have better beef and mutton than he had just tasted. Mr. J. G. S. Anderson also spoke. He said the results of the trial had convinced him that the work of bringing home fresh meat from Australia must be proceeded with very tentatively and carefully at present, for, on the one hand, the beef was darker after freezing than beef-eating persons were accustomed to see in this country; and, on the other, it was not to be disguised that the machinery might break down when the vessel was in the tropics. No doubt freezing machinery would be perfected in time, but it was not perfected yet, and the risk which was run in adopting any system was that on the morrow after its adoption a more perfect system might be brought to notice.”—*Times*, December, 1880.

## CHAPTER IX.

## VICTORIA.

THE rapid rise of this remarkable colony has been unexampled in the world. With the exception of Queensland, it is the youngest of the group. It is the smallest ; nevertheless it has the largest population, the most extensive trade, internal and external, and a greater mileage of railways opened within its limited borders ; it ranks next to South Australia in the quantity of land under cultivation.

Much of this result is attributable to the wonderful attractions of its gold-fields, and much is due to its central position, which ought to make it the emporium of Australia. Its southern position gives to it a more humid climate, and it possesses an unusual proportion of fertile soil in close proximity to the coast.

Strange to say, the earlier attempts to colonize this district were fruitless. So early as 1802, fears

were entertained that France contemplated a settlement on the southern shore, which had already been named *Terre Napoleon*, by Baudin, who claimed to have discovered it. To prevent any hostile intrusion, it was resolved to form a settlement, either at Western Port or in Port Phillip Bay. With this object, Lieutenant Grimes visited the present sites of Melbourne and Geelong, walked over the plains now waving with corn, the seat of the greatest city in the southern hemisphere. His report that all was barren, confirmed as it was afterwards by Collins and by others, may lead us to mistrust other hasty conclusions as to the capabilities of new countries.

Notwithstanding Grimes's discouraging reports, Colonel Collins was despatched in 1803 to found a settlement at Port Phillip. He landed upon the eastern shore of the bay, near Arthur's Seat, but failed to discover any available country; and after remaining for seven months, he transferred the expedition to Van Diemen's Land. He seems to have been in no way fitted for the duty entrusted to him, made little or no attempt to explore the country, and thus lost the opportunity of leaving a name famous in the annals of Australia.

In the following year another attempt was made. Lieutenant Robins and Mr. Oxley, the Surveyor-

General, were sent to Western Port. The report made by them was unfavourable. Subsequent experience has fully justified their conclusions. Undeterred by these failures, the Government despatched Messrs. Hovell and Hume, in 1824, to attempt a journey overland to Port Phillip, from Goulburn, then the southern extremity of New South Wales. They succeeded in reaching the sites of Melbourne and Geelong. The bay they imagined to be Western Port. Their report was highly encouraging—it stimulated further exploration. Sturt's adventurous voyage down the Murray followed. In 1835 Major, afterwards Sir Thomas, Mitchell, the Surveyor-General, organized an exploring expedition, to thoroughly test the unknown nature of the country to the west, and to the south. Having proceeded far to the west, along the banks of the Murray, and having crossed that river, he discovered the Loddon, the Avoca, the Wimera, and pushing beyond the Grampians, reached the river Glenelg. His rapturous description of the land he thus discovered tended much to stimulate the rage for emigration which at that time prevailed in England.

Having turned back from the Glenelg, he pushed his way to the coast at Portland Bay. Here, to his astonishment, he found that he was not

the first European. The graphic account of his first meeting with the Messrs Henty is by no means the least interesting part of his journal. On his return journey he traversed many of those gold-fields since the wonder of the world—and from the summit of Mount Macedon, at a distance of forty miles descried the site of Melbourne. When he fancied that he saw a few white tents, how little could the gallant explorer realize to his mind the marvels so soon to follow!

The first men really settled in Victoria, the founders of the colony, were, beyond doubt, the Hentys, sons of Mr. Thomas Henty, a banker, in Sussex. In 1829 he sent three of his sons to the Swan River with stock, and thus became entitled to 80,000 acres of land in that unfortunate settlement. These keen-sighted men shrewdly foresaw its future, and in 1834 they determined to remove their establishment to Van Diemen's Land. On a coasting voyage one of the brothers landed on the present site of Portland, explored the neighbourhood, and formed a whaling establishment. A memorial from Mr. Thomas Henty, bearing date, February 17, 1839, relates these and other historical facts in support of a request for 2500 acres, in consideration of which grant he would undertake to establish himself at his own expense,

and without any claim to protection from the Colonial Government, At that time there was not a white man within 600 miles of his intended township.

The prayer of this petition was rejected, and Mr. Henty resolved upon the hazardous step of taking up an unauthorized possession. He landed his party, built and enclosed his homestead at Portland, formed six sheep stations, at Cape Bridgewater and at Muntham on the Merino Downs, celebrated as one of the gems of Port Phillip. That family have since become the freeholders of an estate of many thousands of acres of the richest soil. They have thus laid the foundation of a family by means more truly noble, than those resorted to in feudal times.

Their conduct was not appreciated by Sir George Gipps, the Governor of New South Wales, who thus wrote :—

“The Messrs. Henty, like the first settlers at Port Phillip, claim to have rendered good service to the government, and to the colony of New South Wales, by opening a district of country which might otherwise have remained unoccupied for a number of years ; but so far from considering this any advantage, I look upon it as directly the reverse, not only because the dispersion of the

population is increased by it, but because also we are forced prematurely to incur considerable expence in the formation of a new establishment, &c." Read by the light of subsequent history, such infatuation appears incredible. Their well-grounded claims for consideration were almost wholly ignored; they were left with the barren honour—one which they highly prize—of being the founders of the great colony of Victoria.

The news of their prospects, and reports of the fertility of the land at Port Phillip, led to an expedition from Van Diemen's Land, under Mr. John Batman. He landed near Geelong, on 26th May, 1835, formed friendly relations with the natives, and entered into a contract with them for the purchase of 600,000 acres. The conveyance was certainly a legal curiosity. It was wholly ignored by the Executive, which justly asserted the rights of the Crown, and set aside the preposterous claim; 7000*l.*, the amount really expended by the association, was allowed in payment for land.

It was on this expedition that the new arrivals were astonished by the appearance of a white man, William Buckley, a runaway prisoner, from Collins' camp, who had lived for thirty-four years amongst the aborigines, and who had adopted all their customs, except that of cannibalism, a habit then

not uncommon. He had forgotten his own language, but recovered his memory in a very short time. His meritorious conduct in protecting his fellow-countrymen from a sudden attack, and his singular history, at once procured for him a free pardon and a small pension ; after several years, an accident in Van Diemen's Land, terminated his romantic life.

Very soon after Batman's expedition, another party, organized by John Pascoe Fawkner, arrived at the northern extremity of the bay ; and up the river Yarra, on the 29th August, 1835, they landed on the site of Melbourne. They soon found competitors in Batman and his companions, who moved from Indented Head, and claimed priority of occupation. It seems now, after a fierce controversy, that the honour of founding Melbourne must be awarded to Fawkner. Thirty-three years afterwards he inserted in the *Argus* the following curious record :—

“ Melbourne completed its thirty-third year on Saturday last. On the 29th August, 1835, the first landing took place on a small rising ground, on which our tent was pitched on the evening of August 29th. Our horses were then landed and sent to graze. Early in 1835 I resolved to attempt to settle in Port Phillip, having been one of those



who landed on Point Nepean, under Governor David Collins, to colonize at Port Phillip. This was on October 19th, 1803. Governor Collins declared the place unfit for settlement, and took the whole of the people to the Derwent. I sought out some friends to come with me in 1835, and five persons agreed to help to found the new colony. Their names were Robert Hay Murray, William Jackson, Samuel Jackson, Captain John Lancey, and George Evans. They all deserted me; some went away, some took to sheep farming, and I alone remained to found the famous city of Melbourne. I purchased a schooner, the "Enterprise," to bring my horses, cattle, and household goods, and in six days after landing had five acres of land ploughed, and sowed with wheat. This produced 100 bushels in January, 1836. A wilderness in 1835, a flourishing colony in 1868, though only thirty-three years old."

Ten years later, in 1878, the city and suburbs contained 260,000 inhabitants; and in the present year, 1880, the surplus wheat for export over and above that required for local wants, is estimated at 150,000 tons. Many other settlers followed from Van Diemen's Land. They speedily showed that aptitude for self-government which from the earliest times has distinguished the Anglo-Saxons. They

met and petitioned the Government at Sydney for an extension to them of British law, and the appointment of a resident magistrate. In the meanwhile they appointed an arbitrator to decide all questions. Their choice fell upon Mr. James Simpson, who throughout his long life enjoyed the esteem of his fellow colonists.

In compliance with this petition, Sir Richard Bourke selected Captain William Lonsdale, at a salary of 300*l.* a year. The whole establishment under his charge being one clerk, three constables, two surveyors, a customs officer, and a tide-waiter—the germ of the future civil service.

<sup>1</sup> The first award made, a copy of which was, until lately, in the author's possession, may be read with interest.

“We award in the dispute between Mr. Henry Batman and Mr. John Pascal Fawkner—on the first claim, thirty shillings ; on the second claim nothing, although a strong presumption is in our mind that some hasty expressions of Mr. Batman may have led Bullet to destroy the rabbits.

On the third claim, damage, two shillings ; and a fine of twenty shillings in consideration of its being an act of unauthorized aggression ; and in the fourth claim, nothing, as it does not appear that Mr. Batman set the dogs on the calf. We cannot omit remarking that there has been a degree of forbearance on the part of Mr. Fawkner, highly gratifying to us, and, if generally practised, being conducive to the general good.

May 2, 1836.

Signed,

A. THOMSON.

JOHN AITKEN.

JAMES SIMPSON.

Mem.—The fines to be appropriated to some general purpose.

Sheep and cattle continued to arrive from Van Diemen's Land, and from New South Wales. Melbourne, as the town had been named, began to attract notice. Sir Richard Bourke, after visiting it, in a despatch stated that the whole district of Port Phillip contained 500 souls, and 100,000 sheep. He ordered surveys of town lots both in Melbourne and Williamstown. Captain Hobson, R.N., completed a survey of the harbour, which ever since has borne his name. Separate departments of government, distinct from those in Sydney, were formed. Mr. James Croke, afterwards Solicitor-General, was appointed as Crown Prosecutor, and a Court of Requests was established.

At that time no steam connexion between Melbourne and Sydney existed, and a trackless forest of many hundred miles rendered an overland post all but impossible. The impossibility of the central Government directing the local affairs of Port Phillip led to the appointment of Mr. Latrobe as Superintendent. He assumed office on October 1st, 1839. The current story of the day was, that the stationery sent down from Sydney for him and his one clerk, was a quire of foolscap, a bundle of pens, a box of wafers, and 100 yards of red tape—a contrast to the gigantic establishments which he lived to see as Governor of Victoria in 1853.

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Few men's characters have been more keenly discussed. Those who knew him well, found in him an honourable, kind, courteous, and religious man, with a considerable aptitude for business, in which he usually displayed a sound judgment. He may not have had the statesmanlike grasp of mind and firmness of character requisite in his exalted position as governor of Victoria, when the discovery of gold produced a state of things such as the world had never witnessed, which was not surpassed in the wildest times of California, but even his detractors must admit that he was much above par as a governor, and if after fifteen years of incessant anxiety and labour, he succumbed to the attacks and to the misrepresentation of which few really thought him deserving, he only did as many other men had done before him. Throughout the whole of his career he was more or less in a false position, he was the ostensible representative of the Crown, with a salary of 800*l.* a year, an amount wholly inadequate to maintain his position ; he was thus placed at the head of society and in public contact with men of influence, with whom he could not be on terms of social intercourse, whose undying enmity he thus incurred. In the earlier portion of his career, he was under the control of Sir George Gipps, an able but imperious man, who was in

constant collision with all classes, and who was prejudiced against the just claims of Port Phillip. In carrying out his measures, as it was Mr. La-trobe's duty to do, the latter was therefore frequently brought into collision with men who would have wished to rally round him. The impression, naturally, gained ground that he did not maintain the rights of the district with sufficient vigour.

Soon afterwards a branch of the Supreme Court of New South Wales was created, and Mr. John Walpole Willis was appointed as the first judge. He was beyond doubt an honourable, well-intentioned man, but an ungovernable temper brought him into constant conflicts, not only with the Executive, but with barristers, solicitors, and magistrates. He had numerous friends, and intense bitterness created feuds in the infant society. The strong step of removing a judge from the bench became necessary. The Bench of Justice, the best safeguard of liberty, should be sacred, the independence of the judges cannot be too closely guarded. That office has since that time been filled with a succession of distinguished men, an honour to their profession.

Little sympathy has ever existed between Sydney and Melbourne. A jealous feeling arose from the

commencement. The earlier settlers were Vandemonians, numerous immigrants direct from England also cast in their lot with the land of their adoption : from both of these a cry for separation from New South Wales arose. Absolute unanimity prevailed, but it was not until 1850 that the prayer of their frequent petitions was granted.

The commercial crisis of 1843, caused by undue speculation and over-trading, shook Australian trade to its centre. Nowhere had such inflation of prices occurred as at Melbourne, where stock and land had realized enormous prices. Cattle, which had been sold for 7*l.* or 8*l.* a head, were resold at 20*s.* Sheep fell in price from pounds to as many shillings—indeed they may truly be said to have been sold for nothing, inasmuch as the wool at the time upon their backs was worth more than the sum paid for the animal. Port Phillip suffered in common with the rest of Australia, the years 1843-4 will not easily be forgotten by those who witnessed them.

A return of commercial prosperity in England, fruitful seasons, and a continued increase of stock, at length dispelled the gloom. The discovery that a good sheep was worth 5*s.*, if boiled down for tallow, gave a certain value to property which had been unsaleable. From that, until the present

time, with some seasons of temporary depression, the progress of the pastoral interest has been steady.

The political progress made in the meantime had not been small. Melbourne had been incorporated in 1842 ; it had then 706 burgesses, the qualification being a house of the value of 25*l*.

In the following year, Port Phillip, as a portion of New South Wales, shared in the constitution then granted to the latter. Allusion has already been made to the preposterous claims put forward by the most extreme of the "Squatters"—nowhere were they urged with such pertinacity as in Port Phillip. Owing to the rapidity of settlement there almost the whole of the territory had fallen into their hands. Land within ten miles of Melbourne was held upon that tenure. These circumstances rendered the "Orders in Council" more inapplicable to Port Phillip than to any portion of New South Wales. The "Settled Districts" consisted of a circle twenty-five miles around Melbourne, fifteen round Geelong, ten miles round Portland and Alberton, and a fringe of three miles along the sea coast. Public opinion had never acquiesced in them, and when the great influx of population, consequent upon the discovery of gold, took place, it was impossible to maintain a system which leased

auriferous land for pastoral purposes, and gave a preemptive right over the whole country to the pastorallessees. Under the new Constitution of 1856, the control of the Crown lands was entrusted to the colonists, who quickly set aside these claims. The Executive of the day had anticipated this action, and had sold land by auction wherever it was required, the Squatters' right of pre-emption being limited to one section of 640 acres. The strict justice of depriving a class of persons of rights conferred upon it by law has been questioned. It had become a necessity. Hundreds of thousands of men could not be confined to narrow limits. The growth of the "Golden fleece" upon the surface could not be allowed to interfere with the finding of nuggets in the bowels of the earth. The great prosperity and high prices which ensued far more than compensated the Squatters for the loss of any legitimate claim.

A curious and absurd episode in history now occurred. The great distance from Sydney and the difficulty of travelling, made it practically impossible to find resident candidates able and willing to incur the expense and loss of time consequent upon an attendance in the Legislative Council. This intensified the wish for separation; petitions in favour of it were powerfully drawn, and were re-



ferred by the Imperial Government to the Executive Council in New South Wales. In their body a resolution in favour of the measure was carried by the casting vote of the Governor, on April 1, 1846. No immediate steps were taken to give effect to it and patience was exhausted. At the General Election in 1848, it was resolved to elect no members, and thus to prove the necessity for immediate legislation. The present author was without his knowledge nominated as a candidate for the City of Melbourne, but was beaten by Earl Grey, who was nominated by the non-election party. The history of this humorous but effective demonstration was fairly stated in an explanatory memorial to the Secretary for the Colonies, sent by the Mayor and Corporation of Melbourne. The feeling of the Constitution was by no means unanimous. In the country a few months afterwards five resident candidates were elected, defeating the Duke of Wellington, Sir Robert Peel, Lords Palmerston, Brougham, and John Russell. It cannot be denied that the settlement of the question was expedited by this whimsical affair.

An unfortunate attempt made by the British Government to send ticket-of-leave holders, "under the name of exiles," to Port Phillip also caused

much excitement and opposition. This district had always been free from the stain of penal servitude and was resolved to maintain its fair fame. The British Executive was doubtless actuated by the humane and not unreasonable hope, that in a new country where labour was in great request, a fairer field for reformation would be open, than in an over-crowded kingdom where the antecedents of the criminals were better known. The exigencies of some of the larger employers of labour led them at first to support the proposal, but they were quickly overwhelmed by the almost unanimous opposition offered to it. Few, if any, did not admit their mistake ; those who were not convinced by the moral objections to the plan, were forced to own, that the character of the district as a home for free immigrants would be injured. The victory of principle and argument was complete and transportation in any form was for ever rendered impossible.

It was in the year 1846 that the important decision to divide the Dioceses of Australia was adopted, in consequence of which the Bishoprics of Melbourne, Adelaide, and Newcastle were founded. In January, 1847, the Rev. Charles Perry arrived as the first bishop of the first-named see. Dr. Broughton, Bishop of Australia, resigned 500*l.* a year

of his stipend as a partial endowment for it. This was supplemented by a grant of 333*l.* from the Colonial Bishopric Society in England, and for many years this was the whole stipend. In 1852 it was augmented by 500*l.* a year. When Dr. Perry arrived the whole number of the clergy of the Church of England was limited to three; during his episcopate it increased to 160.

At the same time the Rev. James Alypius Gould was consecrated as Roman Catholic Bishop; he has since been appointed as Archbishop of that Church by the Pope of Rome.

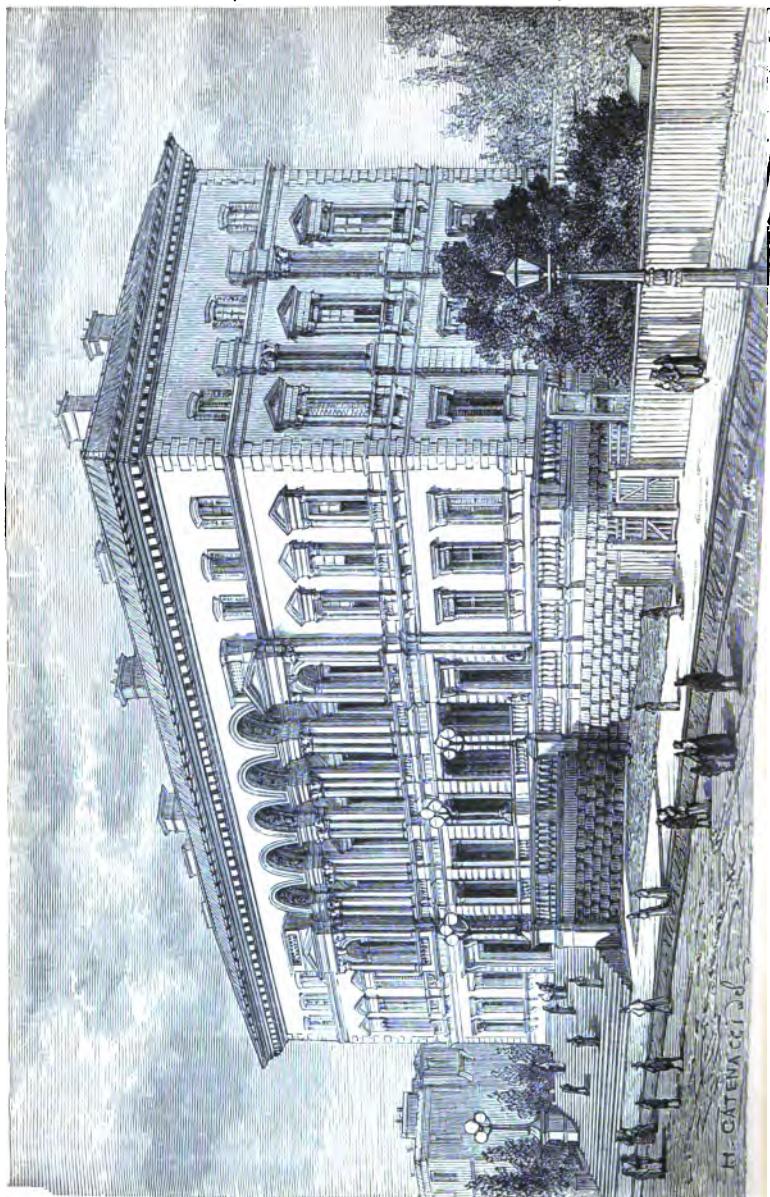
On the 1st July, 1851, Victoria commenced her independent existence, public rejoicings for four days celebrated the event. Since that time that anniversary has been kept as a strict holiday. Mr. Latrobe was appointed as the first Governor; he immediately convened the Legislative Council, consisting of twenty elective and ten nominated members. These were increased in 1853 to thirty-six elective and twelve nominated members. His first financial message stated that the general revenue for 1850 had realized 122,281*l.*, and estimated that in 1851 it would amount to 143,268*l.*, and in 1852 to 175,320*l.* In a few years these modest figures were to be swelled to above four millions and a half.

On the same day, when Melbourne was in the midst of its fêtes, a discovery was made at Clunes, seventy miles to the north-west of the city, which upset all calculations and preconceived opinions. James William Esmond, a returned Californian miner, found gold ; others have laid claim to the honour, but Esmond seems to have been the first to publish the fact. A few months previously it had been discovered in New South Wales by Edward Hammond Hargreaves. The Victoria Executive at once issued a proclamation asserting the rights of the Crown, and regulations were made for the issue of monthly licences to dig, as had already been done in the older colony.

Discoveries at Mount Alexander and at Ballarat quickly followed. Reports of these riches spread like wildfire. Melbourne was deserted ; from all parts of Victoria and of the adjacent colonies, the whole male population flocked to " the diggings ; " farms were abandoned, flocks were left unshepherded. Professional men cast aside their pens, merchants closed their ledgers, sailors deserted from their ships, the warders in the gaols resigned ; the constables, with one exception, cast aside their batons ; the " gold fever " had set in. Many are the comic anecdotes current of the straits to which all classes were reduced. The Governor had to groom his

horse and polish his own boots ; one solitary male is said to have been left in Geelong, because he had a wooden leg and could not conveniently travel. The story of a legal dignitary, who was asked to share a dinner-table as a bed with two diggers may now excite a smile. To complete the chaos of confusion, constant arrivals from all countries poured into the comparatively small town. On several days upwards of a thousand arrivals were seen searching in vain for accommodation. Hundreds were sleeping in the streets, barrels and boxes were regarded as fortunate prizes ; "Canvas Town" sprung up ; the scenes which occurred cannot be overdrawn. Food, clothing, rent, all reached fabulous prices. Gold poured in and was squandered in the grossest dissipation ; fortunes were realized by those who had anything to sell, and property, which only a few months before had been reckoned valueless, rose to enormous prices. The difficulty of maintaining order was much enhanced by the arrival of numerous "expirees" and holders of "tickets-of-leave" from Van Diemen's Land, whose conduct clearly proved that they were not "reformed." Many of these hardened criminals "took to the bush" and committed the most atrocious crimes. The "Gold Escort" was plundered, murders and robberies were





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frequent, but the supremacy of the law was vindicated in the end, and the activity of a reorganized and numerous police force was proved by the fact that upwards of 1600 of the most desperate ruffians were safely lodged in hastily provided hulks and temporary penal establishments.

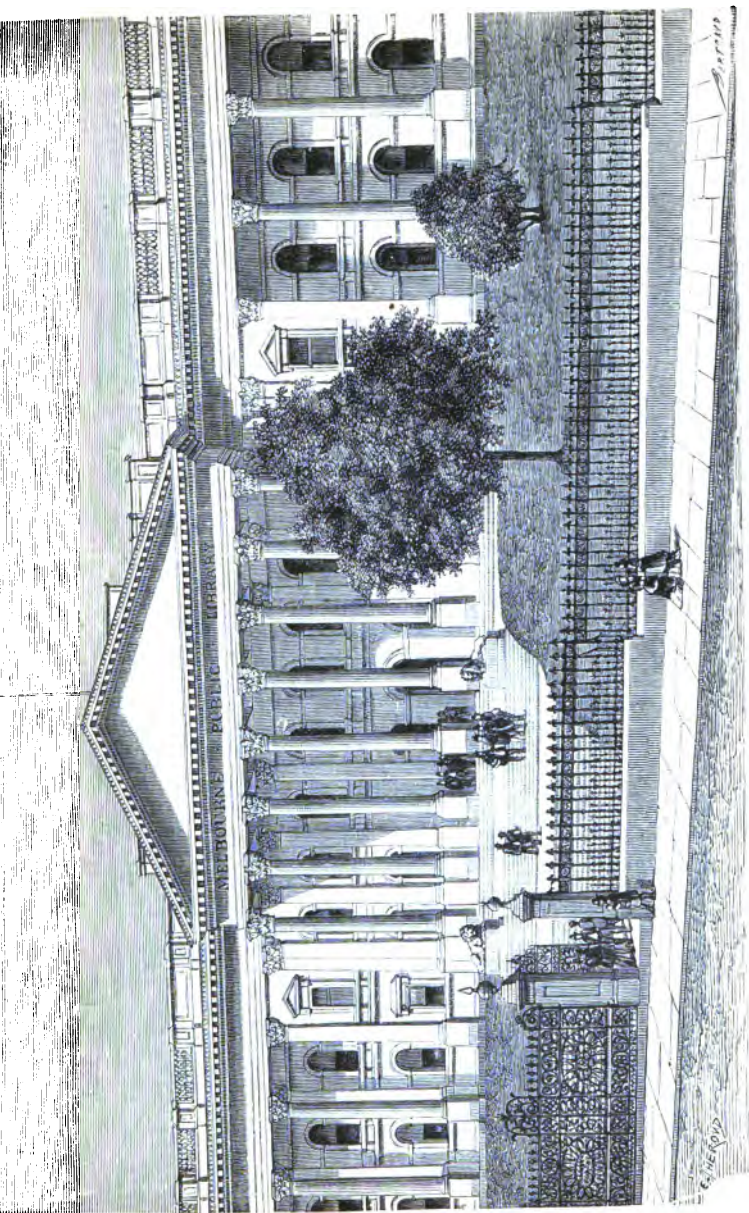
The strain upon the newly formed Government was unexampled. It was composed of young men, not one of whom had gone through any official training; perhaps it was fortunate that so much was left to their practical good sense without the encumbrance of "red tape" and of "routine." It was inevitable that some mistakes should be made, and much criticism was at the time freely indulged in, but no candid person can or does now withhold from them the highest praise for the energy with which they worked, and for the success of their measures for maintenance of order. The anxiety proved too great for the Governor, who resigned his office; after a short interregnum he was succeeded by Sir Charles Hotham.

The latter portion of Mr. Latrobe's administration was distinguished by the passing of the New Constitution. It differs but little from those adopted in the sister colonies, except in the construction of the Upper House, which in Victoria is elective. That colony was the first to proclaim



this principle, which met with almost universal concurrence.

An Act for the establishment of Municipal Government was also passed. There are now fifty-nine boroughs and 144 shires incorporated under it. These comprise thirty-three thirty-fourths of the whole territory. The construction of the Yan Yean Waterworks for the supply of Melbourne was undertaken, the railway system which has since reached such magnitude was inaugurated, the first sod of the railway being turned at Williamtown in 1854, by Mr. Foster, who was Acting Governor between Mr. Latrobe's departure and Sir C. Hotham's arrival, an admirable and most effective constabulary was organized, the first loans for public works were contracted, the Melbourne University was founded, a liberal education law was enacted, and provision was made for the endowment of the Melbourne Public Library and other similar institutions. Public parks and gardens were laid out, and roads extensively made. The system of borrowing money for public works was commenced, the streets of Melbourne and Geelong were formed by means of the Gabrielli loan, and Yan Yean was constructed by similar means, the electric telegraph was introduced, and primary education liberally endowed.



PUBLIC LIBRARY, MELBOURNE.



The Navy has seldom proved a good school for colonial governors. The peremptory character of Sir Charles Hotham, R.N., soon produced an unfortunate collision with the miners at Ballarat, in which several lives were lost. A Commission was issued to inquire as to the management of the Gold Fields. The collection of the licence fee was abolished, and an export duty substituted, as had been proposed by Mr. Latrobe, which wise measure had failed to obtain the sanction of the legislature ; all who understood the gold-fields knew that this was the *fons et origo* of all difficulties. The more settled condition of affairs now permitted the introduction of local government and the appointment of mining-boards, which have worked well.

The new constitution was proclaimed on the 23rd November, 1855. On the 31st December in the same year Sir Charles Hotham died, and General Macarthur succeeded as acting governor.

The introduction of responsible government had become a necessity. Victoria had outgrown the leading-strings of Downing Street ; exigencies constantly arose necessitating immediate action on the part of the local executive. Its most ardent admirers cannot say that it has produced more able or more pure ministers than those appointed under the old system. On the whole it has been a

success, although it must be owned that twenty changes of ministry in twenty-five years are not encouraging to the hope of any stability of policy. The struggles for office which ensued would not interest or be instructive to our readers.

Sir Henry Barkly, an experienced and enlightened man, was the next governor. He quitted Melbourne in September, 1863. Sir Charles Darling followed, but was recalled in three years. Party-spirit raged furiously during his tenure of office. The first of a series of conflicts between the two houses of the legislature occurred at this time. They have not yet concluded.

Viscount Canterbury arrived in the midst of a political and social disorganization; by patience and firmness he surmounted much embarrassment and retired from his post with general esteem.

Sir George Bowen next assumed the reins. During his absence, caused by a lengthened visit to England, Sir William Foster Stawell, the chief justice, administered the government. After Sir George's return fresh collisions between the houses ensued. As they have not yet terminated it is not our province to comment upon them.

On Sir George Bowen's removal to the Mauritius he was succeeded by the Marquis of Normanby, on the 27th February, 1879.

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This government has well been termed the "Blue ribbon" of the colonial service. In salary it is equal to the Viceroyalty of Canada. Some people think that in point of emolument New South Wales with 7000*l.* a year and allowances is quite equal to the 10,000*l.* given to the representative of the sovereign at Melbourne.

## CHAPTER X.

## VICTORIA.

PORT PHILLIP BAY, nearly circular, about forty miles in diameter, is entered from Bass Straits through the "Heads," a narrow opening about a mile in width.

On either side the land lies low. On the west is the fashionable watering-place of Queenscliff, with its numerous villas; on the east is the Quarantine Station and the village of Sorrento, a favourite resort for holiday-makers from Melbourne. A range of hills, which some imaginative Scot named Arthur's Seat, closes in the view. Schnapper Point, Brighton, and St. Kilda, with their miles of marine villas, line the eastern shore, while at a distance of twenty miles the dark ranges of Dandenong, a spur of the Gipps Land mountains, form a gloomy background. On the western shore is the town of Geelong, on the fine

Bay of Corio, thence a plain of good grazing but treeless downs, diversified by the single picturesque peak of the "Anakies," extends for the whole distance to Melbourne. Beauty is not the characteristic of the Bay. The shipping lies securely at its northern end, and discharges its freight at Sandridge, on the Hobson's Bay Railway Pier, or at Williamstown, whence another railway leads to Melbourne; it is in direct communication with the whole railway system.

Melbourne itself is situated on the Yarra, seven miles from its mouth, but it can be reached in two miles from Sandridge. Great improvements in the navigation of the river and for the making of docks have been recently commenced. The recommendations of Sir John Coode, C.E., have been adopted by the Harbour Trust. The Yarra is not only to be dredged, but its course is to be shortened by a canal. Large docks are projected, one of which will be sufficient for present requirements. In it the largest vessels now afloat will be safely berthed. This dock, in the city itself, will be in immediate contiguity to the Central Railway Terminus. Large wharf accommodation along the river banks is also to be provided for smaller ships. Williamstown and Sandridge are to have a depth of twenty-eight feet of water at their piers. A



dredge, capable of removing 1,000,000 tons of silt in the course of the year, has been purchased.

How little did the men who in 1836 planned a country village, dream of this metropolis of the South. Batman's Hill, where the first pioneers pitched their tents, has disappeared and is now the site of the Spencer Street Railway Terminus. The Flag-staff Hill, towards which anxious eyes were turned to watch for the signal of "a sail in sight," is now covered with dense streets. The old cemetery, where—

"In their narrow cells, for ever laid,  
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep,"

has long since been closed, and a more distant site selected. The old Exhibition building, once the pride of Melbourne, how insignificant does it now appear beside the Palace at Carlton!

Melbourne is built upon undulating ground, with good facilities for drainage in all, except in the lowest parts of the town, but no attempt has been as yet made to effect any sanitary arrangements. The cost of any system of sewerage would be enormous. Notwithstanding this total neglect, the death rate in Melbourne is the same as in London, throughout the colony it is by much lighter than in England.

Melbourne proper consists of a rectangle one





mile in length, it is laid out in parallel streets, a sensible but unpicturesque plan. The main thoroughfares are ninety-nine feet in width, the alternate streets, intended for lanes or mews being much narrower. Many of these, such as Little Flinder's Street, are now lined with warehouses, which would not disgrace Manchester. Collins and Bourke Streets, with their rows of handsome shops can vie with many European capitals, the busy eager crowd in Elizabeth and Swanston Streets, never fail to impress a stranger. These form the great business streets in the city; the chief hotels, clubs, the banks, town hall, post office, are situated in them. Some of these are really fine buildings and are of considerable merit. Ecclesiastical architecture has not been successful. The Wesleyan Church is perhaps the most creditable, and the Roman Catholic Cathedral, occupying the best site in the town, claims commendation. The Church of England Cathedral has recently been commenced, and promises to eclipse all rivals. One individual who "builds a church to God and not to fame," has given anonymously 10,000*l.* to this work.

Most of the manufacturers and traders have their places of business in this part of the city. Melbourne proper is one only of the seven municipalities. Fitz-

roy, Collingwood, Carlton, Sandridge, Emerald Hill, and Richmond, along with Melbourne proper, forming the capital. The greater portion of the more prosperous citizens live in them, and in the suburbs of St. Kilda, Brighton, South Yarra, Toorak, Hawthorn, Kew, &c. One of the most striking features of the place is the number of villas, ornamental cottages, and gardens, which extend for miles on all sides. The wise foresight of the first governor Mr. Latrobe reserved four large parks as well as the university reserve Fitzroy gardens, &c., the lungs of the city. The government house domain, and the botanic gardens, although not actually in it, are in full view and are near enough to be freely used by the citizens. The former stands on the south bank of the Yarra in a commanding position, with a fine view of the bay and of the adjacent country. The house possesses but little architectural beauty, but is of great size and is well adapted for public receptions. To do justice to it the governor has to spend the whole of his large salary, 10,000*l.* a year.

The botanic gardens are in immediate proximity to it. Although these gardens cannot boast of the romantic beauty of those at Sydney, they have been very tastefully laid out and afford a delightful retreat from the dusty town. A valuable scientific

collection of plants has been made under the direction of Baron Ferdinand Von Mueller.

The total population of the city and neighbourhood usually known as Melbourne, in 1878, was 256,477. This, the ninth town in the British Empire, is the growth of forty-four years.

The whole of this district is supplied with water from the Yan Yean reservoir, sixteen miles from town on the river Plenty. It contains 6,417,800,000 gallons, and was constructed at a cost of 1,524,000*l*. This expenditure, principal and interest, has already been repaid by the rates. Other waterworks are in progress throughout the colony, and it is intended to extend them. Inclusive of the above sum they have already cost 3,386,577*l*. and have a storage capacity of 12,663,204,601 gallons. Some of them have not been very successful.

Melbourne is the centre of the railway system, not only of Victoria but of Riverina, all railroads converge to it. A far-seeing policy prompted the government at a very early date to connect Echuca on the Murray with Melbourne by a railway, and thus to attract to the latter port the trade of the centre of the continent. 2,153,399*l*. of wool, the growth of New South Wales, was thus shipped in one year at Melbourne, this is included in the exports hereafter given, a fact to be kept in mind.

Almost the whole of the export and import trade of Victoria is centred in Melbourne. The business at Geelong, Warnambool, and Portland is chiefly conducted by branches of Melbourne firms. The government returns do not distinguish any local divisions of it, amongst the various ports. A reference to the tables show that in 1878—

The imports were 16,161,880*l*.

„ exports „ 14,925,707*l*.

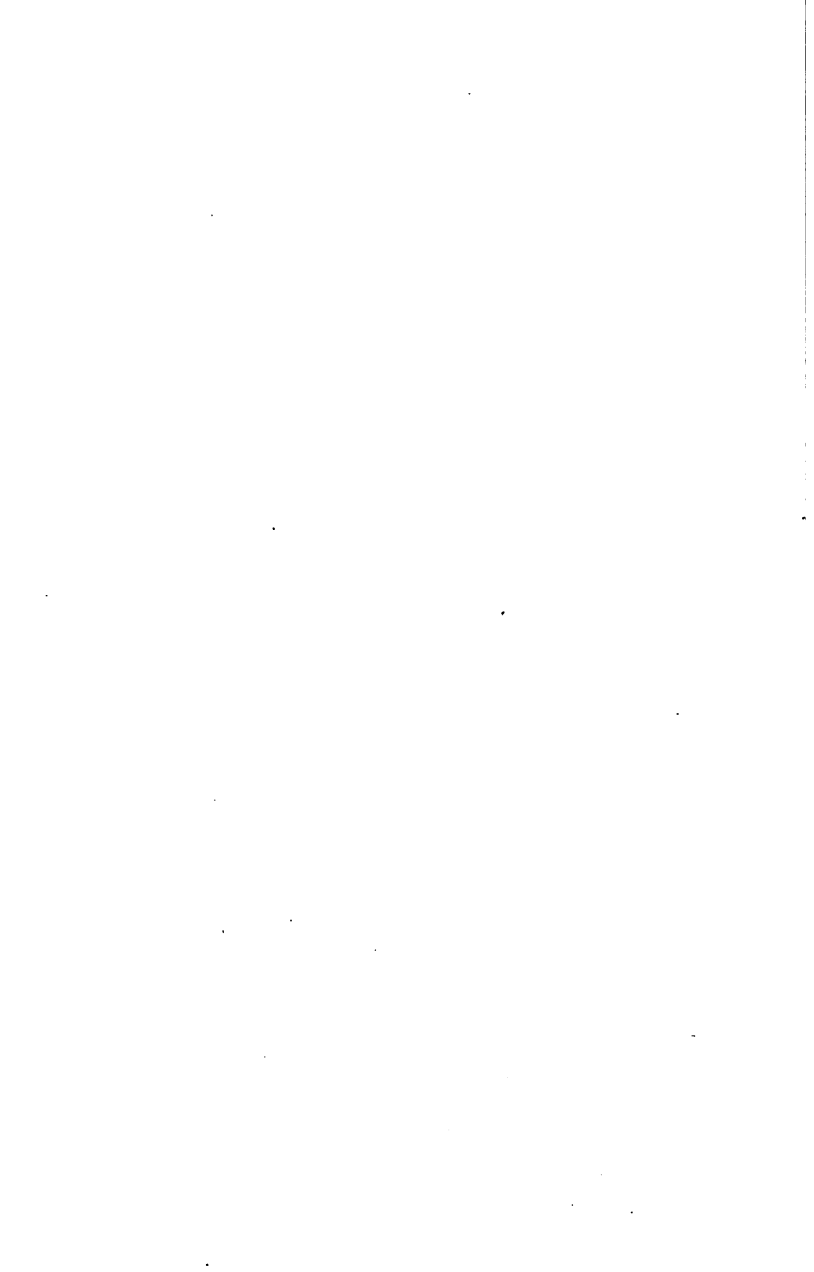
If these figures be divided by the number of the population it appears that the value of imports per head was 18*l*. 11*s*. 11*d*., and of exports 17*l*. 3*s*. 6*d*. Comment is needless.

A railway fifty miles in length along the western shore of the bay connects Geelong with the capital. This town once hoped to rival Melbourne, but it now contains only 23,000 inhabitants, it is prettily situated on Conio Bay, and is on all sides surrounded with a rich country, at the commencement of those fertile plains which with little interruption extend by Lake Colac and Port Fairy to the Wannon and Glenelg, and across the South Australian boundary. This great agricultural district extends westward for about 200 miles and northward to the Pyrenees, beyond which range the country presents a different aspect. In soil and climate this western district is superior to any part of Australia,



RIVER GLENELG, VICTORIA.





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The greater portion of it is of volcanic origin, extinct volcanoes, some of them occupied by lakes, are numerous.

Nearly the whole of this valuable land has passed into the hands of private owners, some of whom have secured for themselves princely possessions. Returns give the number of landowners in Victoria as 7050. Of these 133 held above 15,000 acres, some own above 40,000. All these estates are fenced in and subdivided into farms and paddocks. Highly bred sheep and cattle feed on English grasses. Some breeders have earned for themselves a wide-spread fame, which attracts numerous purchasers from all the adjacent colonies to these annual sales of stock. Enormous prices are given. The highest price ever given in the world was paid in 1876 by Mr. J. W. Gardiner to Messrs. Robertson of Colac when Brown Duchess was sold for 2200*l.*; a similar sum was refused for a ram.

Near the coast the country is for the most part rough and timbered. Warnambool and Belfast, the former with 5000, the latter with 3000 inhabitants, are small unsheltered seaports with a local trade; further to the west, the town of Portland, the early settlement of the Hentys, has a population of 2500, and supplies the wants of its immediate

neighbourhood. The extension of the railway westward to Hamilton will probably attract a portion of this trade to Melbourne.<sup>1</sup>

It will not be necessary here to describe the pastoral industry, it is the same as in the other colonies, excepting in so far as that the larger amount of freehold occupation has produced greater and more permanent improvements and expenditure, nor is there much to add as to agriculture. For some reason the profits of the farmer do not appear to be as remunerative in Victoria as in South Australia, although the average returns of the principal crops is not only higher, but more certain. Mr. Hayter gives the averages of five years ending in 1878 in Victoria, of wheat as being 13·84 bushels; oats, 19·07; and in South Australia, wheat, 8·95; oats, 12·90. The more general use of machinery in the latter may in part account for this paradox. Vineyards also appear to have been more successful in South Australia, for which fact it is not easy to assign any reason.

To the north of this fertile belt, beyond the Grampians and the Pyrenees, are the Wimmera

<sup>1</sup> A railway map just received, upon which the completed and projected lines are marked, shows that, with the exception of a portion of Gipps Land and of the extreme west, no part of the colony is more than fifteen miles from a station.

Plains ; at one time these were considered to be too poor to feed sheep, but they are now proved to be excellent wheat-growing lands, an instance of the caution necessary to be used, against drawing hasty conclusions as to new country. These plains reach to Lake Hindmarsh and the Mallee Scrub, beyond them to the Murray the country is a desert. On the banks of this river some fair grazing-land is to be seen. The quality improves higher up towards its source. Above Swan Hill, the plains of the Avoca Loddon and Campaspe are much better than they look, while still further to the east, the picturesque ranges of the Goulburn and Upper Murray have not fulfilled the expectation formed of them. The valley of the Upper Murray produces some of the best wines in Victoria. Mr. Fallon's vineyards near Albury, are very extensive and celebrated. This king of Australian rivers has its source in the Australian Alps. These mountains rise to the height of 7308 feet, and their summits are covered with constant snow ; they occupy the whole of the country from Albury to Gipps Land. A branch of the same range forms the dividing range through Victoria, ending in the Grampians at Mt. William, 5600 feet in height.

Gipps Land is a rich and fertile district, more adapted for agriculture and for cattle than for

sheep ; until two years ago it was isolated. Mountains on one side, and swamps on another, rendered the sea the only practicable outlet ; a railroad now connects it with Melbourne at a distance of 120 miles.

## CHAPTER XI.

LAWS RELATING TO SALE AND OCCUPATION OF  
LAND.

THE regulations as to the sale of the public lands have been frequently altered, without much regard to any sound economical principle. The Land Act now in force was passed in 1869, but was amended ten years afterwards. It limits the quantity of land to be sold by auction in any one year, to 200,000 acres; as a matter of fact in 1879, only 47,375 acres were disposed of in this manner. The Act permits any person to select 320 acres wherever he may please; this selection he is to hold under licence for six years, a residence for five years, an expenditure of at least 20s. per acre upon permanent improvements, and a cultivation of at least one-tenth of the land are required. An annual rental of 1s. per acre is charged. This is to be allowed in payment of the price at the end of

the six years ; i.e., the licensee can convert his holding into a freehold upon payment of 14s., or should he prefer it he may take a lease for fourteen years at 1s. per annum, which rent is credited to him at the conclusion of the lease, in the purchase of the freehold. These strict conditions as to residence, improvements, &c., were introduced to preclude the possibility of large monopolies of land ; that they often proved futile is very evident.

The condition of residence is dispensed with if a rent of 2s. per acre is paid, and the price of the freehold is fixed at 2*l.* ; improvements to the amount of 2*l.* per acre are insisted upon. The quantity allowed to be alienated in any one year even upon these stringent terms is limited to 200,000 acres.

The area of Victoria is 56,446,720 acres, of which 18,523,346 have been already sold or selected. Of the residue, above 1,000,000 are taken up as roads ; towns and other reserves occupy 650,000. Auriferous lands are exempted from sale ; this withdraws 1,150,000 ; and State forests and timber lands, amounting to 650,604 acres, are also out of the market.<sup>1</sup> It is computed that 23,000,000 consist of

<sup>1</sup> Some inadequate attempts at legislation to preserve timber have been made, on which subsequent legislative acts were founded. In the Land Act of 1862 the initiatory proceedings had been

mountains, lakes, mallee scrub, and of useless land. The whole amount really available for sale is therefore only 11,422,885 acres, or about 35 per cent. of the whole area. The amount alienated in 1878 was 307,574 acres, producing 375,534*l.* Since the first land sale in 1836, the total sum realized was 18,952,140*l.*; the average being 1*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* per acre.

Nearly the whole of the territory was, in the infancy of the colony, held by squatters, the pastoral tenants of the Crown. Their number has been reduced to 768. Most of them have purchased the freehold of a large part of their former "runs," and contrive to hold the residue under lease, but at an advanced rent, and subject to conditions for sale. The rental charged is 5*s.* for every head of cattle, and 1*s.* for every sheep, that the run is estimated to be able to support.

taken by ordering the formation of ten timber reserves, of 8567 acres; and, pursuant to section 5, of eight others, of 24,061 acres. The Land Act of 1865 added the Bullarook forest, of 42,000 acres, and the Dandenong, of 25,000 acres. But the earliest timber reserves were formed in 1860. By 1872 there were forty State forests, of which Cape Otway was the largest (193,000 acres), and Warrenheip (190 acres) the smallest. To Baron von Muëller, the botanist of Melbourne, is Australia most indebted for the work of forest conservancy. The destruction on gold-fields, the recklessness of carters and land selectors, with the mysterious disease eating out the forests of Eucalyptus, called for prompt action. It was said that in fifty years not a decent tree would be left on Cape Otway peninsula.



The land occupied in holdings above one acre was very nearly 16,000,000 of acres, divided amongst 47,000 proprietors ; of these, 22,292 held between 100 and 320 acres—these were agriculturists. There were 72 who owned from 10,000 to 15,000 ; 53 who were possessed of from 15,000 to 20,000 ; 50 held between 20,000 and 30,000 ; 17 between 30,000 and 40,000 ; while 13 were the fortunate owners of still larger freeholds.

These pastoral stations and the agricultural farms employed 103,520 hands ; 210,000 horses, 1,184,843 head of cattle, 9,379,276 sheep, and 177,373 pigs, were supported by them ; the gross annual returns from this stock was 8,360,265*l*.

The principal agricultural crops were—wheat, 691,622 bushels ; oats, 134,428 bushels ; barley, 22,874 bushels ; potatoes, 36,527 bushels ; and hay 172,799 tons. The average produce per acre may be seen in the tables appended ; they are worth study. Until recently the breadstuffs raised did not equal consumption. In 1878 above 1,000,000 bushels were exported ; this was much exceeded in the following year ; and in the present it is said that 150,000 tons await shipment.

It is estimated that the improvements in these farms have cost 17,000,000*l*. The machinery and implements are valued at 2,000,000*l*.

The country is divided into 34 counties; these for purposes of local self-government are subdivided into 114 shires and 59 municipalities. The councillors are elected by the ratepayers, and a plurality of votes is allowed. In general the system has worked well; sixteen-seventeenths of the colony is included in shires or in municipalities. The country and town population is nearly equally divided; in the former it is 428,993; the value of rateable property is 52,525,600*l.*; the annual value is 3,889,220*l.*; and the revenue is 455,593*l.* In the cities and boroughs there is a population of 414,880; the rateable property is 31,887,816; yielding annually, 3,141,720; and producing a yearly revenue of 453,665*l.* An endowment of 300,000*l.* is given to these bodies by the general government. Such figures are the best proof of the well-being of the colonists. There is no reason to think that the state of things in New South Wales or in South Australia is substantially different. The statistical returns from Victoria are given in much fuller detail, and have therefore been dwelt upon at greater length.

An analysis of these figures also proves that undue weight has been attributed to the effects of manhood suffrage in the election of the Parliament. By the last returns it appears that on the list of

electors for the Upper House there were 29,727 ratepayers and 1714 professional men and others. Of the electors for the Legislative Assembly, 154,012 were ratepayers, and only 22,010 were registered on other grounds: a state of things not unlike that which exists in England. In municipal elections, voting is confined to ratepayers, and a cumulative vote is permitted. Property ought to be safe, but many profess to entertain fears as to the result.

Although Victoria is the smallest, it has a larger railway system than any of the sister colonies. All of it is in the hands of the government, the small metropolitan lines having been purchased by it. The total length actually completed and in use in 1878 was 1052 miles, of this 174 were double, and 878 single lines. When these works were commenced, wages were high, all prices were inflated, extravagant ideas prevailed, and the expenses incurred were enormous. The Great Northern line to Sandhurst, 100 miles in length, cost the incredible sum of 45,000*l.* per mile. The western line, from Geelong to Ballarat, a distance of 54 miles, 32,000*l.* These are double lines, and on the latter the Moorabool viaduct formed a heavy item. The useless nature of such an expenditure is evident from the fact that the line from Sandhurst has been continued

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to Echuca at a cost of 11,000*l.*, and that the railway from Maryborough to Avoca was made for 4000*l.* per mile. These two latter are single lines.

The net income derived from the Victorian lines nearly pays, if it does not quite defray, the interest on the money borrowed for their construction. If they all had been made on a more moderate scale, still more favourable results would have followed. No fear need therefore be entertained that the lines made since these will not be reproductive. The Goulburn Valley line, 45 miles in length, the cost of which is limited to 5750*l.*, and the Carlsruhe and Daylesford, of 22 miles, limited to 6675*l.* per mile, can scarcely fail to prove wise investments.

In 1878 the number of passengers carried was 666,220; the net profits increase each year. It is therefore clear that in a few short years a surplus revenue will be derived from this source, and that the untold advantages of developing the country will have been obtained for something less than nothing. The earlier loans, contracted at a comparatively high rate of interest, are soon to be due, and will be reduced by money raised at about four per cent., a saving of nearly 160,000*l.* per annum will thus be effected, this will extinguish the present loss.

There are 233 telegraph stations open, through which 1,003,654 messages were despatched within the year, the cost of management being 60,280*l*. The number of miles of wire was 5404. The accounts of the Telegraph department are mixed up with those of the Post Office. The loss on the whole establishment was 92,719*l*. or 37 per cent. of the receipts. This loss is attributed to the heavy subsidies paid for sea-borne mails. The number of offices open was 1007, and through these 36,232,558 letters, newspapers, and packets were transmitted.

## CHAPTER XII.

## THE GOLD-FIELDS.

IT is for its gold mines that this, in other respects so favoured, colony is most remarkable. Since 1851, the date of the first working, to the end of 1878, 48,058,647 oz., in value 192,234,596*l.*, have been obtained. The greatest amount was in 1853, in that year, 12,600,084*l.* was produced. Since then there has been a steady decrease, until 1878, when the total value of the gold had sunk to 3,101,088*l.* The average annual return has been 6,864,000*l.*, more than double the product of the last mentioned year. The number of miners has also diminished ; in 1868 there were 64,658 men thus employed ; in ten years these have been reduced to 36,636, including 12,000 Chinese. It is not probable that many others will be tempted to adopt this calling, as the average return was only 82*l.* 13*s.* per head ; this is not equal to the wages earned in many other

more agreeable occupations. The character of the work is also in some respects altered. The alluvial deposits, at which individuals without capital could work, are year by year diminishing. The exhaustion of an alluvial claim, however rich, can be but a question of time. In 1878, only 35 per cent of the gold was obtained from alluvial, and 65 per cent from quartz mines. Quartz mines promise to be permanent; rich veins have been found at Stawell, at a depth of 2393 feet, 1200 feet below the sea level; this, the Magdala mine, is the deepest in Australia. At Sandhurst and at Ballarat, veins have been profitably worked at depths of 1458, and 1114 feet respectively. The permanence of quartz-mining is thus fully proved. The average return from quartz has been a matter of much discussion. The result obtained from 15,000,000 of tons, was 11 dwt. 1·08 grains. Less than half of this would pay. Large capital and expensive machinery is required for this kind of mining. In 1878 there were 1036 steam engines employed in mines, 750 of which were on quartz reefs. The total amount of machinery was valued at 1,903,494, representing 4428 distinct machines.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> More recent information has reached us. We quote from the *Times*. From the just issued report for 1879 the *Times* takes the following figures:—The quantity of quartz raised from the mines during the past year is estimated at 849,324 tons 16 cwt.—less by about

The number of quartz reefs returned by the various Registrars is 3402, and the auriferous land

25,000 tons than in 1878. The estimated yield of gold from alluvial mines for the year was 293,310 oz., from quartz mines 455,637 oz.; the total exceeds by 907 oz. the yield for 1878. For the first time during the last eleven years the estimated yield of gold from alluvial mines shows an increase on that of the preceding year, due principally to a better water supply for sluicing operations, and to the opening of deep mining ground near Beaufort; but owing to the exhaustion of the auriferous drifts in the older workings of the gold-fields, it is hardly to be expected that yields from this class of mining will show any lasting improvement. Although there is still a slight falling off in quartz mines, it is, however, to quartz mining that we have to look hopefully for future progress, and it is confidently expected that the recent discoveries of extensive and highly auriferous quartz veins at Ballarat, in close contiguity to the deep alluvial leads so long and profitably wrought in that gold-field, together with a great improvement in the prospects of vein mining at Maldon, and other places, will cause an increase in the yields from this class of mining for the current year. The quantities of vein quartz crushed, and the average yield per ton of gold therefrom, were as follow in the several districts of the colony:—Ballarat, quartz crushed, 346,540 tons 5 cwt., yielding 6 dwts. 18·44 grs. per ton; Beechworth, 55,092 tons 16 cwt., yielding 10 dwts. 11·04 grs.; Sandhurst, 232,081 tons, yielding 9 dwts. 8·09 grs.; Maryborough, 36,603 tons 14 cwt., yielding 11 dwts. 22·67 grs.; Castlemaine, 75,692 tons, yielding 5 dwts. 18·45 grs.; Ararat, 76,323 tons 9 cwt., yielding 11 dwts. 17·73 grs.; Gipps Land, 26,991 tons 12 cwt., yielding 1 oz. 2 dwts. 18·66 grs. per ton. Besides this, there were considerable quantities of tailings, mullock, pyrites, blanketings, &c., treated, yielding a percentage on an average of about 2 dwts. of gold per ton. The number of miners employed in alluvial and quartz-mining during the year was 22,769 and 14,784 respectively, showing a total increase of 917 over 1878. The number of Chinese engaged in mining operations on December 31, 1879, was 9110, being a decrease of 528 as compared with 1878. The number of steam-engines employed in alluvial mining was 228,



worked in 1878, was 1290 square miles. The precious metal has been found from the eastern boundary of Victoria, in Gipps Land, to the South Australian frontier, at Mount Ararat; there is therefore ample room for fresh discoveries. Many

of 6134-horse power; in quartz mining 796, of 16,375-horse power, besides 6333 stamp-heads. The total value of the machinery used on the several gold-fields was estimated at 1,899,788*l*. The approximate area over which mining operations extended up to the end of 1879 is 1234 square miles, and the number of distinct quartz reefs proved to be auriferous is 3582. Considerable progress has been made in deep mining, at least 17 shafts having reached over 1000 feet in depth. Some of the shafts sunk in search of auriferous quartz veins have attained depths in excess of 2000 feet. On December 31 there were 1226 gold-mining leases in force, and the estimated value of the lands held under by-laws and under lease from the Crown in the mining districts was 4,684,928*l*. The revenue derived directly from the gold-fields and mineral districts, exclusive of fees, fines, and forfeitures, was 15,641*l*. The number of mining companies registered during 1879 was 167, the number of shares 2,277,276, and the nominal capital 1,286,674*l*. Of metals and minerals other than gold, we have the following information:—No silver ore was raised during the year, but 23,729 ounces were parted from gold during smelting; a very trifling quantity of tin was obtained. Of copper 3862 tons of ore were raised, and 4228 tons smelted, yielding 388 tons 16 cwt. of regulus. Of antimony ore 495 tons 15 cwt. were raised; no lead ore; 120 tons iron ore; no coal; 1353 tons lignite; 2102 tons of flags. Since the discovery of the gold-fields 48,719,930 oz. 11 dwts. of gold have been raised, valued at 194,879,722*l*.; and 151,267 oz. of silver, valued at 37,817*l*. The value of the tin raised during the same period is 345,541*l*.; copper, 72,964*l*.; antimony, 156,390*l*.; lead, 4892*l*.; iron, 3666*l*.; coal, 13,505*l*.; kaolin, 7444*l*.; flagging, 48,921*l*. The report contains much detailed information on mining in the colony, to which space forbids reference.

geologists are of opinion that the auriferous formation underlies the whole of the rich basaltic plains of the south-west: whether it could be profitably worked may be doubtful. No satisfactory theory as to the formation of gold in quartz has as yet been propounded.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The reports of the mining surveyors and registrars for the quarter ended 30th June, 1880, have just been issued by the Government Mining Department. The surveyors and registrars estimate the amount of gold obtained during the quarter at 198,528 oz. 7 dwts., of which 123,572 oz. 18 dwts. was from quartz, and 74,955 oz. 9 dwts. from alluviums. The amount of gold exported during the quarter was 29,790 oz. 18 dwts., and the amount of Victorian gold received at the local mint was 144,727·37 oz. The total amount of gold estimated to have been obtained in the June quarter compares very favourably with the estimated amount for the corresponding quarter of last year, when it was 189,336 oz. 14 dwts., or about 9000 oz. less than the estimate for the June quarter of this year. The estimated number of miners employed during the quarter was 37,592, of whom 14,004 Europeans and 8543 Chinese were engaged in alluvial mining; 14,909 Europeans and 136 Chinese in quartz-mining. The miners were distributed amongst the seven districts into which the colony is divided, in the following proportions:—Ballarat, 8456; Beechworth, 4902; Sandhurst, 6505; Maryborough, 7880; Castlemaine, 4711; Ararat, 2934; Gipps Land, 2204. The number of miners employed in the June quarter of last year was 36,928, or 664 less than in the June quarter of this year. The approximate value of all the mining plant employed in the colony during the June quarter of this year was 1,894,507/., the proportions in the various districts being—Ballarat, 398,147/.; Beechworth, 180,656/.; Sandhurst, 494,672/.; Maryborough, 311,750/.; Castlemaine, 211,908/.; Ararat, 174,357/.; Gipps Land, 123,017/.. The number of square miles of auriferous ground actually worked upon was 1245½, of which 160½ was credited to the Ballarat district, 340½ to Beechworth, 143 to Sandhurst, 132½

The alluvial deposits have been caused by the denudation of the Silurian rocks in the mountain ranges—the current carrying the detritus being interrupted by volcanic action. It is thought that these gold drifts must date from the Pliocene period. The deposits are often found to be richest where the adjacent reefs are the reverse. Their productiveness is caused by the quantity of the quartz which has been denuded, not by its quality. The detritus has often been carried to a great distance by

to Maryborough, 164 to Castlemaine, 88½ to Ararat, and 216½ to Gipps Land. The number of distinct quartz reefs actually proved to be auriferous was 3611, situated as follow :—Ballarat, 347 ; Beechworth, 881 ; Sandhurst, 777 ; Maryborough, 615 ; Castlemaine, 405 ; Ararat, 81 ; Gipps Land, 505. There were employed in alluvial mining during the quarter 242 steam-engines of 6328-horse power, 177 steam puddling-machines, 1 buddle, 778 horse puddling-machines, 182 whims, 205 whips or pulleys, 16,157 sluice toms and sluice boxes, 44 hydraulic hoses, 414 pumps, 226 water-wheels, 148 quicksilver and compound cradles, 361 stamp-heads, crushing cement, and 13 boring machines. In quartz mining there were employed 799 steam-engines of 17,194-horse power, 68 crushing machines driven by other power than steam, 6152 stamp-heads, crushing quartz or other vein stuff ; 59 buddles, 11 winding, washing, pumping, or other machines moved by water-power ; 508 whims, 430 whips or pulleys, and 23 boring-machines used in blasting. There were at the end of the quarter 18 mining shafts in the colony sunk to depths of over 1000 feet, 11 of them being at Stawell. The three deepest shafts were the Magdala, 2396 feet ; the Newington, 1940 feet ; and the Prince Patrick, 1830 feet, all at Stawell. At Sandhurst the Lansell's No. 180 shaft was down 1476 feet ; the Great Extended Hustler's, 1368 feet ; and the Carlisle, North Garden Gully, and Passby United, 1340 feet.

the action of the water, but the gold, from its great specific gravity, sank to the bottom before it had travelled far from its source. These "drifts," or "leads," or "gutters," as they are termed by the miners, are all ancient watercourses ; they all rest upon Silurian rock, sometimes called the "bottom," sometimes the "bed rock." This "bottom" or "bed rock," has sometimes been found at a depth of 500 feet, and to reach it several successive flows of lava have to be cut through. The interposition of these flows has caused the "oldest," the "older," and the "recent" drifts. They vary very much in richness. These phenomena are more especially apparent at Ballarat. It is obvious that nuggets such as the "Blanche Barkly" or the "Welcome," and others weighing 2000 ounces, could never have been carried by water.

Ballarat with 34,000, and Sandhurst with 26,000 inhabitants, are the chief centres of the gold-fields. Many other towns, varying in population up to 8000, have grown up ; whilst others, caused by a sudden "rush," have all but disappeared. Ballarat, situated in the midst of a fine agricultural country, is now an episcopal see. It boasts of its churches, schools, banks, parks, theatres, and hotels. Sandhurst rivals it in most of these, and the same is more or less true of Castlemaine, Mary-

borough, Dunnolly, Clunes, Stawell, and Creswick.

The local regulations for the working of the different gold-fields vary widely, according to their character. They are framed by elected boards, which have given satisfaction. Their complicated details would be unintelligible to any but a practical miner.

The state derives no direct benefit from its ownership of the gold. The Melbourne Mint merely pays its expenses. Since its establishment, in 1872, it has issued 10,788,000*l.* in gold coin, and 80,708*l.* as bullion.

Although gold is the chief, it is not the only metal found in Victoria; antimony, tin, silver, and others, are worked. In 1878 there were 84 leases, of 9000 acres, issued for various mining enterprises, some of which are of much importance. The great want is that of coal. Some thin seams have been found in Gipps Land, but geologists do not encourage the hope that it will be found in paying positions or in quantity.

## CHAPTER XIII.

## RELIGION AND EDUCATION.

THE following table, extracted from the Victorian Year-Book, shows the present religious bodies:—

Denomination.	Number of Registered Clergy.	Buildings.	Sittings.	Average Attend- ance.	Number of Ser- vices.
Church of England . .	161	485	71,345	43,154	27,468
Roman Catholics . .	94	454	89,466	61,902	40,693
Presbyterians . . .	156	677	75,960	65,740	37,023
Wesleyans . . . .	140	828	129,070	92,930	82,454
Independents . . .	48	93	16,261	8,395	9,708
Baptists . . . . .	40	78	13,430	9,255	10,723
Bible Christians . .	16	101	9,125	4,150	6,449
Evangelical Lutherans	12	37	4,680	3,035	2,576
Welsh Calvinists . .	2	6	1,400	400	824
Church of Christ . .	14	29	3,515	1,831	2,989
Other Christians . .	11	18	2,540	1,075	3,955
Jews . . . . .	9	7	1,759	605	1,433
Other sects . . . .	...	2	1,500	1,300	48
Total . . . . .	703	2815	420,051	293,722	226,343

The same authority tells us that the religious beliefs of the population were as follows :—

Church of England . . . . .	312,908
Presbyterians . . . . .	137,149
Wesleyans . . . . .	114,414
Other Protestants . . . . .	63,723
Roman Catholics . . . . .	207,201
Jews . . . . .	4,332
Pagans . . . . .	21,293
Other sects . . . . .	8,020

An Act of the Legislature, passed in 1854, gave the Church of England what the other bodies already possessed, full power of self-government. A Church Assembly, consisting of the clergy and an equal number of laymen elected by communicants, legislate for the church. The nomination of bishops has been relinquished by the Crown, and is now vested in the Church itself. The system of Church government in each of these colonies is nearly similar.

The growth of the population necessitated the subdivision of the Diocese of Melbourne in 1875. In that year the revenue of that diocese, derived from various sources, was 53,097*l.*, and that of Ballarat 16,057*l.* This is exclusive of the episcopal stipends. These latter have been provided for by

special endowment funds, and have been fixed at 1500*l.* for the former, and 1300*l.* for the latter see. The lowest stipend for any clergyman is 200*l.* The majority range from 300*l.* to 500*l.*, and some few receive 600*l.* In almost all cases parsonages have been provided. All these religious bodies are wholly dependent upon voluntary contributions, State aid having been abolished in 1871.

There is nothing more creditable to this community than the zeal it has shown for intellectual progress. Eighteen months had not elapsed since its establishment before an Act incorporating the University was passed, having been assented to in January, 1853. It was introduced by the Right Hon. Hugh Childers, M.P., who at that time was a prominent public man in Melbourne. The Act provided an endowment of 9000*l.* a year. Sixty acres in a commanding position in the city were granted as a site for building and for a park, now tastefully laid out and planted. Forty additional acres, part of the same block, were reserved for the use of four theological colleges connected with the leading denominations, — a fundamental principle of the University being that its educational course should be secular, and that no religious tests should be recognized. It was enacted that a Council and Senate should be formed so



soon as one hundred Masters of Arts had obtained their degrees. This condition was not fulfilled until 1867, in which year the Senate was duly constituted.

The foundation-stone was laid on 3rd July, 1854, and in the following year a portion of the building was completed and opened. Since that time the usual requirements have been provided, a library, in which there are 18,000 volumes, and a museum, have been built at a cost of 8000*l*. The latter was visited by 98,149 persons in the year. In October of last year, 1879, the foundation-stone of the "Wilson Hall" was laid; when completed it will be 140 feet in length, 47 in breadth, and 84 in height; the style is Gothic. The total cost will be 40,000*l*., the noble gift of Sir Samuel Wilson.

Royal letters patent recognize the degrees as equal to those of Oxford and Cambridge: the strictness of the examinations and proficiency of the students fully justify this step. Women, a few of whom have already matriculated, are eligible for degrees.

The Melbourne University is a teaching as well as an examining body, collegiate and university courses are thus combined. Six professors and fifteen lecturers instruct in law, medicine, logic,

natural philosophy, in mining and engineering, besides the other usual branches of education. At a very recent meeting of the Senate it was unanimously resolved to introduce modern languages and modern literature as a regular portion of the course.

The total number of degrees conferred is 595; but as several graduates have taken out more than one degree, it is not believed that more than 400 individuals have obtained the distinction. The total number of matriculated students is 1324, of those attending lectures in 1879, 263. The revenue of the University was 18,136*l.*, of which 6694*l.* was derived from students' fees.

The statutes provide for eight scholarships of 45*l.* tenable for two years; also for three exhibitions of 25*l.*, and twelve of 30*l.* There is a Shakespeare scholarship of 50*l.* Private liberality has also endowed an engineering scholarship. Dwight's prizes, the Howitt scholarship, the Stawell prize, The Bowen prize, and others, prove the high estimation in which the University is held.

The Church of England and the Presbyterians are the only bodies which have commenced theological colleges in connexion with it.

The foundation-stone of Trinity College was laid in 1870, by the Bishop of Melbourne (Dr. Perry).

Considerable additions were made in 1877. There is now a good lecture-room, chapel, library with 2500 volumes. ; dining-hall, and accommodation for a Principal and twenty-four students. The cost of these buildings, which are Gothic, has been 18,000*l*. Eight scholarships have been founded by Dr. Perry, the first Bishop of Melbourne, and seven private persons, with a view to the education of young men desirous of becoming episcopal clergymen. Members of any denomination may, if they choose, join the college.

Mr. Francis Ormond has liberally endowed the Presbyterian College, deservedly named after him. He offered 10,000*l*., on condition that an equal sum should be raised within a year. This was done. He subsequently gave 2570*l*. to complete a handsome tower, and has now offered 2500*l*. towards an endowment of professorships, provided that 7500*l*. be raised within a twelvemonth.

Higher education is provided at six grammar schools. There are also a few private establishments at which excellent instruction is afforded.

The present Education Act provides means of secular education, and makes it compulsory up to a certain standard. In 1878 there were 1664 public schools open ; there were 3906 instructors, and 231,169 scholars on the rolls. It was esti-

mated that these represented 189,435 distinct children. The average attendance was 116,608. At the same time there were 596 private schools, with 1700 teachers, and 37,532 pupils. Of these, 87 per cent. were Roman Catholics, who objected to the secular system of the public schools.

It is computed that, making due allowance for those receiving instruction at home, 92·17 per cent. of all children of a school age were being educated—a highly satisfactory and creditable result, more especially as in the remote sparsely inhabited “bush” it is impossible to collect pupils.

The amount of public money expended was 594,197*l*. In addition to the above numbers, there were 1551 Sunday schools, 13,449 teachers, 111,142 pupils.

On the same day as that on which the foundation stone of the University was laid, a similar ceremony was performed at the Melbourne Public Library. Since that time 280,316*l*. has been expended upon it. The following description of what has been, and is intended to be done, will show that even this large sum will be quite inadequate. The trustees say in their report,—

“On the ground floor is an entrance-hall, fifty feet in length by fifty wide. Large pillars support the first floor. On the south side are apartments

used as temporary offices, and a room fifty-five by fifty. On the north is a chamber ninety-five by fifty, in which are placed casts of modern statues and busts. On the first floor are three chambers—a central chamber fifty by fifty, the southern and northern chambers each ninety-five by fifty, not separated by partitions. The reading-room is thus 240 feet long, fifty wide, and thirty high. . . . . The great hall, running parallel to the library, 220 feet long, by eighty-two wide and forty-eight high, is now used as a technological and industrial museum. Between the great hall and the library, connecting the two, is a rotunda, seventy-one feet in diameter, intended for the great staircase to conduct visitors to the library and gallery of the museum."

It is of this rotunda that the late Sir Redmond Barry, to whom the University and library owe so much, thus spoke,—

"The rotunda of the grand staircase, which when finished will be probably as handsome as any yet built, not excepting the Scala Regia of the Vatican, will measure in diameter seventy-one feet, it exceeds therefore by six feet the dome of the Pantheon in Paris." He proceeded to compare the great hall with those of Europe,—

"With the exception of those of Padua, Ypres,

and our own Westminster, there is none which exceeds it in length." The cubic contents of the hall at Melbourne exceed those of the latter by 50,000 feet. In this magnificent building, which for comfort and convenience is not excelled, there were collected 101,035 volumes; these were well-selected standard works—trash being excluded. Books contributed by individuals, pamphlets, works lodged under the copyright statute, amounted to 106,503. This library is open daily, free, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Any one can obtain admission upon writing down his name. It was visited in the year we have so often named by 256,400 persons, all of whom had free access to the shelves. The loss incurred, and damage suffered since the commencement, has been little more than nominal.

Its utility is much enhanced by a system of lending throughout the country. Loans of 8000 volumes had been made to local libraries in towns containing 110,000 persons. These volumes were constantly interchanged, thus widely diffusing knowledge.

The other libraries in Melbourne are those of—

The Parliament . . . .	40,000 vols.
University . . . . .	18,000 „
Supreme Court . . . . .	20,000 „
Mechanics' Institute . . .	30,000 „

The Royal, the Law, and Medical Societies, the Literary Institution, and nearly twenty institutions in the suburbs, are well attended.

This taste for literature is widely spread. Mr. Hayter, in his invaluable Year-Book, says,—

“There are free libraries, athenæums, or scientific, literary, or mechanics’ institutes, in most of the towns of the colony. Some of these institutions receive books on loan from the Melbourne Public Library. One hundred and sixty-seven furnished returns for 1878 to the Government Statist. These statements show that their total receipts in that year amounted to 25,590*l.*, of which 6925*l.* was contributed by Government, and 18,665*l.* by private individuals; that the number of volumes in all these institutions amounted to 221,614, and that during the year 1,442,480 visits were paid to ninety-four of them which kept attendance-books. If visitors attended others in the same proportion, the total number of visits during 1878 must have amounted to about 2,600,000.”

A remarkable result, the population of the country districts in which these institutions are situated being about 600,000.

The National Gallery, the National and Industrial Museum, erected in immediate contiguity to the Public Library and under the same trustees,

form a handsome group of buildings. The former of these is an object of just pride. There are to be seen in it works of modern artists—Herbert, Creswick, and others—some of which have cost thousands of pounds. Originals of ancient masters have of course been unattainable, but replicas and good copies, selected by the late Sir Charles Eastlake, Messrs. Ruskin, Herbert, and Thompson, give to the colonists a good idea of the art treasures of the older world. A gallery of statues, collection of medals, &c., aid in this. Schools of painting and of design are held under this roof.

The National Museum was visited by 98,149 persons in 1878. The specimens already collected, and recorded in the register, are 43,812. This department is under the able management of Professor McCoy of the Melbourne University.

The Industrial and Technological Museum has classes for chemistry and practical engineering, which are well attended, and promise to be of great use.

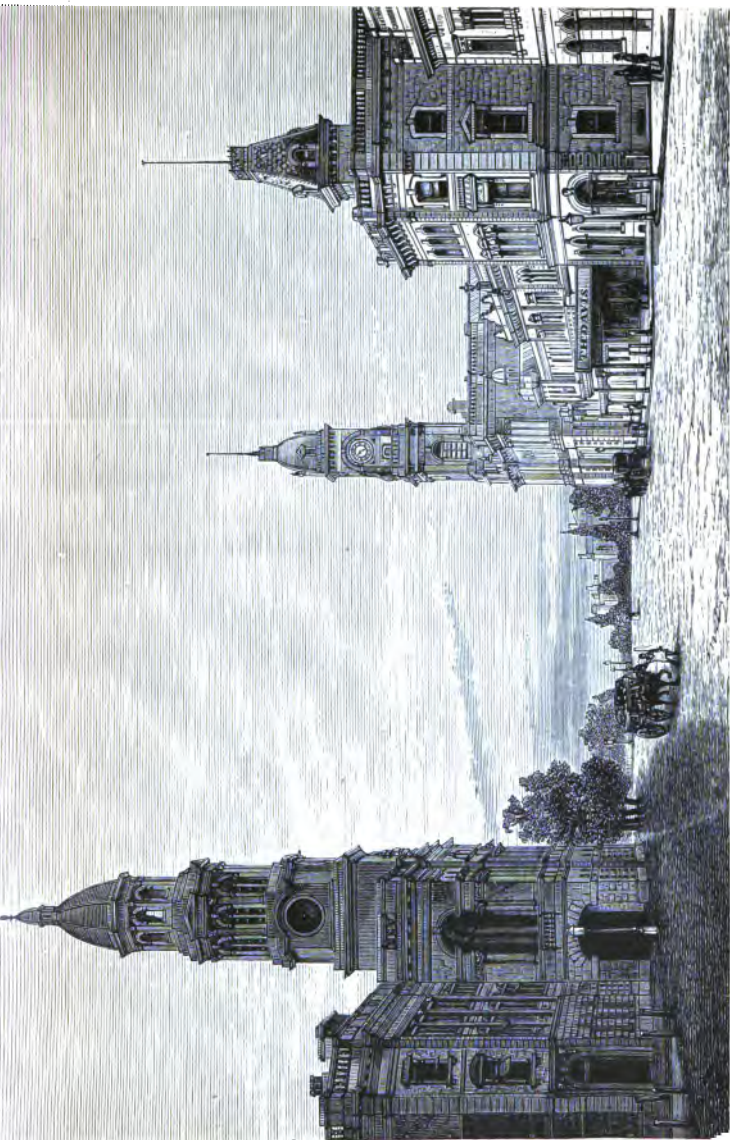
The above facts will prove that the old idea "that anything will do for Australia" is lamentably erroneous, and that the practical go-ahead energy which is justly attributed to them, is mixed with higher aspirations.



## CHAPTER XIV.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

IN the year 1831 the attention of some gentlemen in London was turned to the settlement of the district now known as South Australia, but their proposals met with no encouragement in Downing Street. Three years subsequently, fresh spirit was infused into their project by Mr. Edward Gibbon Wakefield, who hoped to find an opportunity for testing that system of settlement which has since passed under his name. His fundamental principles were: 1st. That there should be no free grants of land. 2nd. That the funds realized by land sales should be mainly devoted to the introduction of immigrants, whose labour would give value to the land thus sold. 3rd. That land should not be sold except at "a sufficient price." This "sufficiency" was not to be measured by the present or prospective value, nor by the market



POST OFFICE AND TOWN HALL, ADELAIDE.



price ; it was to be " sufficient " to prevent labourers from acquiring farms, and thus becoming employers, at an early period.

The first two principles are admitted to be sound, but it is a matter of doubt whether the third is just to the working class, and whether a facility for obtaining cheap land would not operate as a more powerful attraction for population, as has been the case in Canada and the United States.

The Wakefield system has never been thoroughly tested. To a great extent it was carried out in South Australia and New Zealand ; but the very foundation of the system, namely, the application of the land fund to the introduction of labour, has been in every instance abandoned. The large influx of immigrants caused by discoveries of gold rendered such an expenditure unnecessary. Indeed it is obvious that this principle could not have a fair trial, unless the scene of its application could be isolated from all places which did not adopt it. The cheap labour imported at the expense of the former would speedily find its way to the high wages and cheaper land to be obtained in the adjacent settlements. Mr. Wakefield himself admitted this to the author, who had the advantage of knowing him. All who had that privilege found in him a man of wonderful ability, to whom

colonization owes more than to any other man.

The efforts of Mr. Wakefield and his fellow-labourers were at length successful. An Act of Parliament was passed in 1834, enabling certain persons to frame laws, to establish courts, to levy duties and rates, &c., and three Commissioners were appointed by the Crown to carry out the purposes of the Act.

The leading principles upon which the colony was to be founded were : 1st. That it should be self-supporting. 2nd. That under no circumstances should it at any time be used as a penal settlement. 3rd. That there should be no established form of religion. All of these have been carried out. In furtherance of these objects the South Australian Company was formed.

Captain Hindmarsh was appointed as the first Governor, and arrived in Holdfast Bay on 28th December, 1836, the anniversary of which has ever since been celebrated as a national holiday.

Dissensions soon arose in the infant community and in little more than a twelvemonth Hindmarsh was recalled, and Colonel Gawlor succeeded to his duties.

Under his administration serious difficulties, for which he was not responsible, arose. Surveys of

land had been delayed ; holders of land orders purchased in England could not be put in possession of their farms ; agriculture was neglected ; the colonists, huddled together in the town, indulged in little except a keen speculation in "town allotments ;" citizens and labourers were unemployed ; capital, which should have been invested in productive industries, was expended in the purchase of food from Van Diemen's Land ; flour sold for the enormous price of 100*l.* per ton ; universal distress and confusion ensued.

Colonel Gawler adopted a course fatal to his own reputation as a Governor, which led to his immediate recall. Large public works, some at least of which might have been postponed, were undertaken to afford employment for the unemployed. To provide for the cost the Governor drew upon the Lords of the Treasury. His drafts were dishonoured, but not before 350,000*l.* had been issued. In the end the whole of this sum was advanced by the British Government as a loan to the Colonial Exchequer, and has been repaid. Captain, now Sir George, Grey was sent out to supersede Colonel Gawler. The latter left Adelaide with the sympathy of those who had profited by his expenditure and of those who felt that a fatal crisis had been averted by his bold policy.

Captain Grey had one advantage over his predecessors, the authority of the South Australian Company was abolished, and direct control was assumed by the Colonial Office. He was nevertheless placed in a difficult position ; he had to face clamorous creditors ; he had to stop expenditure and thus to throw many persons out of work ; he had to cut down the wages of such as were not discharged, and great discontent was the inevitable consequence ; but the result was good ; men were forced from the town to legitimate rural pursuits, which ere long made the settlement self-supporting.

The Imperial Parliament voted a sum to pay Colonel Gawler's drafts. This encouraged Captain Grey to adopt the same step, without the same necessity. He drew upon the Treasury in London, and the drafts were again refused. They were ultimately paid by an additional loan to the Colonial Government, which was also repaid. South Australia can boast that she has never cost the mother country one shilling.

He was succeeded in 1845 by Colonel Robe ; although not a popular, he was admitted to be an excellent, worthy man. It was now that the first discoveries of copper were made at Kapunda, and the Burra Burra. The full effect of these was not

felt for a few years. These discoveries, and some other concurrent circumstances, gave a marvellous impulse to prosperity under Sir Henry Fox Young, who assumed the reins in August, 1848. A large number of miners, and of others, now arrived, attracted by the good news. Great prosperity ensued, and bright visions were indulged in. These, however, were soon interrupted by the discovery of gold in Victoria. This powerful attraction drew the bulk of the male population to the "diggings" in the latter country; croakers predicted that South Australia would be deserted; property fell rapidly in value; a run on the banks ensued; the crisis was so severe, that the coin held by all the banks did not much exceed 20,000*l*.

The danger was but temporary. Gold from the Victorian fields soon arrived in such quantity that an escort to bring it to Adelaide was organised, and many successful diggers returned with their "pile" to the families they had left behind.

A fresh difficulty now arose, there was abundance of gold, but very little coin. The Executive saw the necessity of complying with a petition from the Chamber of Commerce, and created an assay office. Ingots of the value of 1*l*. sterling were stamped, against which the banks were authorized to issue notes to the amount of 3*l*. 11*s*. per ounce.



The Act was to be in force only for one year, but before its expiration the banks had time to import sovereigns from England to redeem their notes, and thus to realize a good profit. Prosperity again dawned. The demand for breadstuffs from the Victorian gold-fields, gave an impulse to agriculture. Numbers of successful miners returned with their hard earned gains ; the prospects of South Australia never before had appeared so high.

Attempts were now made to open the navigation of the Murray, This noble river, and its affluents, the Darling, the Murrumbidgee, and the Goulburn, were found to be available for 2000 miles, through a country recently occupied with sheep and cattle. It discharges itself into the sea about forty miles to the south of Adelaide ; but a bar at its mouth renders direct access to the sea, impracticable. Many plans to obviate this disadvantage have been proposed, and have given rise to keen controversy. Some have urged the construction of a railway from a convenient point upon the river, direct to Port Adelaide ; others recommend the formation of a harbour at Port Victor, near the river's mouth, on the coast. If either of these plans were carried out, South Australia would reap the reward of its enterprise. The present result of opening the river navigation is, that the bulk of the wool, finds its

way to Melbourne, the Victorian Government of that day having, with a wise and statesmanlike foresight, made a railway to Echuca, a township on the Murray, and thus tapped the interior.

Such a consequence was not anticipated by the sanguine South Australians. The Executive offered a bonus of 4000*l.* for the first two steamers of forty-horse power drawing not more than two feet of water to navigate the river. Captain Caddell, in conjunction with Mr. Younghusband, founded a company. The "Lady Augusta" was launched, and in 1853, Sir Henry and Lady Young reached Swan Hill in Victoria, from whence a triumphant despatch was forwarded to the Secretary of State. The first cargo of wool was brought back; unbounded enthusiasm prevailed; medals were struck in commemoration of the event. A candelabra worth 700*l.* was presented to Captain Caddell. Since the opening of these rivers the whole of that immense tract of pastoral country known as Riverina has been heavily stocked, producing now about 200,000 bales of wool annually. The Murray is navigable for a distance of 2000 miles from its mouth at Goolwa. The Darling from its junction at Wentworth is navigable to Fort Bourke, 800 miles, and, for a short period, some 300 miles further into Queensland. The Murrumbidgee, en-

tering the Murray, some 300 miles from Wentworth, is navigable to Wagga, a distance of 700 miles, to which town railway communication with Sydney will shortly be extended.

One hundred and fifty-two steamers and barges are occupied in the river trade, about one-half of which are owned by South Australia.

The breakwater at Victor Harbour is now in course of constructon, and will accommodate vessels of the largest tonnage, and will, when completed, considerably add to the already increasing traffic on the Murray, of which South Australia is the natural outlet.

The provisions of the new constitution were framed about the same time. They are nearly analogous to those adopted in Victoria. The Legislative Council is elected by the whole colony as one electoral district. It consists of eighteen members, one-third of whom retire every four years. No power to dissolve it exists; nor has any provision been made for ensuring harmony or finality of legislation between it and the Lower House. The only qualification for membership is a residence of three, and an age of thirty, years. The electoral franchise is confined to freeholders of 50*l.* value, leaseholders of 20*l.*, annual value, and householders of 25*l.* a year. The Lower House at

first consisted of thirty-six members. These were in 1873 increased to forty-two, and in this year a Bill was passed to increase the members to fifty-six, and to re-divide the electoral districts. They are elected for three years by manhood suffrage, protected by ballot. No qualification for membership is required, except that the candidate must be British-born or naturalized, he must be twenty-one years of age, and have been a registered elector for six months.

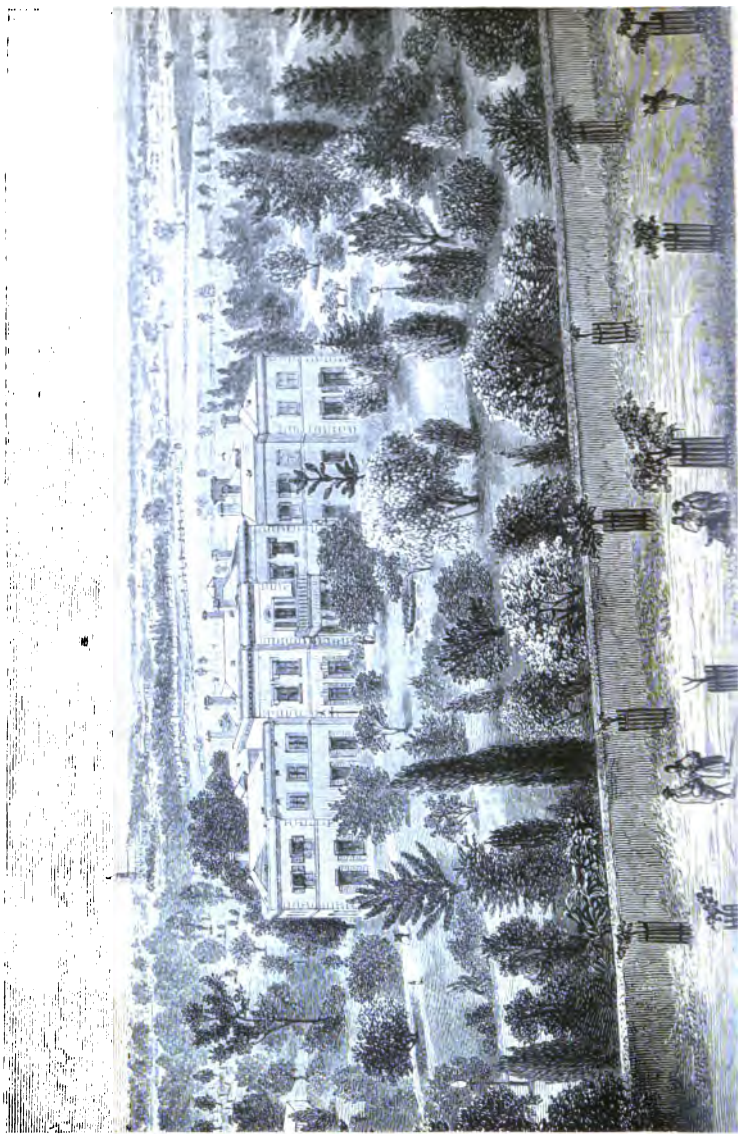
The legislation, under the guidance of a responsible ministry, has, on the whole, been much to be commended ; the troubles which have prevailed in the conflicts between the two Houses in New South Wales and Victoria have been avoided. Some of the measures, notably the Torrens Act for the simplification of the law for land transfer, have been imitated throughout Australia. Some of the principles of this Act have been adopted in our recent land laws, and probably the remainder will be carried out, in spite of the opposition of lawyers, who, at Westminster as well as at Adelaide, found all manner of objections, and prophesied inevitable failure. Experience there, as it has in Ireland, has proved, and as it will in England, that an infeasible, cheap, simple, registered title must in the end be for the advantage of all concerned.

In June, 1853, Sir Richard Graves Macdonell arrived as successor to Sir Henry Young. He was a most popular Governor, clear-headed, active, and conciliatory. Responsible government was inaugurated, and on the whole has worked well, notwithstanding that there have been thirty-one changes of ministry in twenty-two years.

Vigorous steps were now taken for the construction of railways, and these have been ever since carried out. In 1879 upwards of 500 miles had been opened. The cost has been defrayed by loans contracted in London, and it is believed that in a very few years the net profits will defray the whole of the interest. They have been well executed. Two gauges, one of five feet three inches and another of three feet six inches, have been adopted, a policy which appears to be problematical.

Steady progress continued under Sir Dominic Daly, the next Governor. He died in 1868, before he had completed his full term of office, and was succeeded by Sir James Fergusson. He quickly evinced great intelligence and general ability; proved himself to be a good speaker, and was deservedly popular. The overland telegraph was laid to Port Darwin, under the superintendence of Mr. Todd. In a lecture upon it he truly said,—  
“Thus the great work, notwithstanding all dis-





asters and mishaps, was successfully completed within two years, and he thought he might with confidence assert, that no line passing through a similar extent of uninhabited country, where the materials had to be imported, and carted over such long distances of country presenting similar natural obstacles, had been constructed in the same short space of time." This line, nearly 2000 miles in length, by means of which the whole continent of Australia communicates with the rest of the world, was the work of a body of men not exceeding 200,000 in number—a feat of which they may be justly proud. The total cost incurred by them was 400,000*l*.

During Sir Anthony Musgrave's term of office continued prosperity was seen. Sir W. W. Cairns followed, but failure of health necessitated his resignation after a few months. The present Governor, Sir William Francis Jervois, a distinguished military engineer, has turned his attention to the external defences of South Australia and of her sister colonies, who invoked his advice upon this all-important subject. It is now proposed to make a railway through the centre of the continent from Adelaide to Port Darwin, and to defray the cost of construction by grants of land along the line.



## CHAPTER XV.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

THE city of Adelaide is built on a plain, about eight miles from Port Adelaide, and about five miles from the sea at Glenelg. At Port Adelaide, beyond which point ships cannot proceed, vessels of 1500 tons can discharge and load. In 1878, the exports were 5,355,021*l.*, and the imports 5,719,611*l.*, a large amount for 236,000 people. Some persons have advocated the construction of a railway to, and a jetty at the "outer harbour," but the most competent judges do not think this proposal practicable.

The city itself is laid out as a rectangular parallelogram, one mile in length, by a mile and a half in width. It is intersected by the Torrens, thus forming North and South Adelaide; originally it was subdivided into 1040 allotments of an acre each. The streets are laid out at right angles, and

are planted with trees, always ornamental and useful during the torrid heat of the summer. Ranges of hills present a very beautiful appearance at the distance of about three miles. The scenery is picturesque and much to be admired, although it cannot vie with the beauty and grandeur of Sydney and of Hobart Town.

The suburbs are handsome, the watering-place of Glenelg, and numerous villages and villas on the hills, are much frequented by the busy men whose occupations necessitate a residence near the town. Handsome botanical gardens afford a favourite resort for the citizens, as do also park-lands around the town.

In the heated atmosphere, for the temperature is higher than either at Sydney or Melbourne, an abundant supply of water is essential; two reservoirs, the largest of which covers 167 acres and holds 945,000,000 gallons, and the smaller with an area of 27 acres, containing 140,000,000, have hitherto proved to be sufficient, but in the summer of 1878-9 fears were entertained that they would not be able to afford enough for the wants of 50,000 persons. These reservoirs have been made by dams across the Torrens, sixteen miles from the city, at an elevation of 170 feet above it. Mains extending 134 miles have been laid. The total outlay has

been above 600,000*l.*, and the rates more than defray the interest of the loan raised to defray it.

The same care, which has already been noticed in New South Wales and Victoria, for the intellectual culture of the inhabitants, is witnessed here. A university has been founded, endowed by the Government with an annual grant equal to the interest accruing from private endowments, and also with a grant of 50,000 acres of land, the rental of which is already above 4000*l.*, and will progressively increase. Five acres in the North Terrace were granted as a site for the building, for the erection of which a contract for 24,736*l.* was accepted in March, 1879. Private munificence has met this public liberality; Sir Thomas Elder, and Mr. W. W. Hughes, each of whom settled 20,000*l.* as an endowment. Scholarships have been founded by the Department of Education, by Mr. Angaus, and others. A visitor, council, senate, and professional board have framed statutes for the use of the institution, and sixty-two degrees have already been conferred. The calendar for 1878 enumerates thirty-six matriculated, and thirty-five non-matriculated students; of the latter, thirteen were females, to whom it is proposed to grant degrees. It is understood that upon compliance with some suggestions from the Secretary of State, Royal Letters Patent

will be issued, recognizing these as being equal to those of any other university.

Primary education has not been neglected, wherever an average attendance of twenty children can be reckoned upon within a radius of two miles, the law provides for the erection of a school-house. An endowment of 20,000 acres has already been made, which is at present augmented by annual grants. These amounted in 1878 to the sum of 153,000*l*. Reading-rooms, institutes, &c., throughout the country receive from the Government an amount equal to that raised by voluntary subscriptions.

The municipal affairs of the city are administered by a corporation created in 1842 ; a fine town-hall has been erected ; many miles of streets have been macadamized. It has worked well, and the system of local municipal control has been extended throughout the rural districts. District councils, and road boards have made many hundred miles of roads, the advantages and luxury of which can only be appreciated by those who have a memory of the " bush tracks " of earlier days.

Let us now endeavour to avoid the mistake made in the infancy of the settlement, when the colonists lingered too long in the town, and proceed at once to the country teeming with wealth, the only

support of the city with all its attractions, amusements, institutions, and public and private establishments.

Corn and copper will in all probability continue to be the distinctive sources of South Australian wealth. The colony doubtless has great pastoral advantages, but it is not likely in this, nor in gold-mining, to rival New South Wales and Queensland. Both these industries can be better alluded to elsewhere. The only passing observation relative to pastoral occupation is, that it is clear that great success in it is quite compatible with an unrestricted sale of land for agricultural farming. Notwithstanding the large amount of land devoted to the latter purpose, and the absorption of labour caused thereby, there were depastured upon freehold and crown lands 6,377,812 sheep, 251,802 cattle, and 121,553 horses; the fleece is nearly if not quite as valuable as that grown in New South Wales or Victoria. It is doubted whether sheep can be kept in the central and northern districts, but there seems to be no question that cattle can be fattened in them irrespective of climate.

Although the acreage in vineyards is not quite as large as in Victoria, the quantity of wine is greater. It is also of higher alcoholic strength. Some few samples have been tested which yielded 34·1 per

cent. It has always been felt to be a grievance that all wines exceeding twenty-six per cent., are subjected in London to a higher duty. In 1873, the year of the largest production, 728,000 gallons were made from 4922 acres (*vide* Appendix). The local consumption of this wholesome, and often very palatable liquor has already diminished the habitual use of spirits. It is much to be regretted that the finest qualities have not found their way to foreign markets. This error has produced an undeserved prejudice against it. The utmost carelessness was for many years displayed, but greater care is now bestowed upon the manufacture, and vigneron are sanguine as to the result. The very highest encomiums have been pronounced at Vienna and at other international exhibitions upon selected samples. This proves what may be accomplished in future.

It is however of her wheat that South Australia is more especially proud. In quality it is unequalled: not only at exhibitions has it uniformly won the first prizes, but in the open markets it has always commanded an exceptionally high price. This enables the grower to pay the cost of carriage to England; although the freight and other charges equal half of the price obtained in South Australia. If these exorbitant charges can be materially reduced, there are many millions of acres capable of

profitable cultivation. The total area under crop in 1879 was 1,458,096 acres, the yield being 14,260,964 bushels of 47 pounds. In 1880 it is computed that there are 350,000 tons available for export, over and above the local requirements for food and seed.

The statistical tables show the rapid development of this industry. Although the export of wheat does not as yet equal that of wool, still it must be remembered that all wool is exported, and only the surplus wheat finds its way to foreign markets, a large amount being consumed at home. For the last three years the exports were as follows :—

		Breadstuffs.		Wool.
1877	. .	1,203,302 <i>l</i> .	. .	2,196,019 <i>l</i> .
1878	. .	1,672,901 <i>l</i> .	. .	2,417,397 <i>l</i> .
1879	. .	1,652,120 <i>l</i> .	. .	1,984,879 <i>l</i> .

The principal corn-growing districts lie to the north of Adelaide, they are known as "The Areas," the nearest harbour to them is Port Pirie. At one time it was supposed that wheat could not be produced so far to the north. The extent of cultivation in proportion to a very sparse population is so striking that the late Bishop Patterson exclaimed, with admiration, that "the earth seemed spontaneously to yield her fruits."

The general use of machinery has rendered this

result possible, and may account for the fact that although the average crop per acre is less than in Victoria and Tasmania, the profit seems to be more satisfactory.

Sir Arthur Blythe, Agent-General for the colony, in an interesting paper recently read by him before the Royal Colonial Institute, says,—

“The harvest which has just passed (1879) has been an unusually good one ; it is estimated that the average has been fourteen bushels to the acre, and that the total value of the cereal export will approach 4,000,000*l.*, that will amount to 16*l.* per head for every man, woman, and child of European extraction, from this one source of wealth.”

In the same paper Sir Arthur gave the following clear statement of the present system of land sale, one cause of these results :—

“The land is surveyed in sections of not more than 500 acres extent. The minimum price is 1*l.* per acre, and it is offered directly (by auction) to *bond fide* cultivators, first to those who promise personal residence ; secondly, to those who propose substitution of a bailiff or man-servant over eighteen years of age.

“The land unsold at auction is open for selection by private contract to *bond fide* cultivators, and in the event of simultaneous applications, the appli-



cant intending to reside personally has the preference.

“The purchaser covenants to make improvements on the land of the nature of a dwelling-house, farm-buildings, wells, tanks, or reservoirs, fences, &c., to the extent of a certain sum per acre before the end of the second, third, and fourth years of his occupation, respectively.

“He also covenants in every year to have one-fifth of his land under cultivation. One acre of osiers, olives, vines, fruits, potatoes, beet-root, or hops, is allowed to rank as equal to six acres of cereals.

“The purchaser is not allowed to transfer his holding without consent of Commissioner.

“Payment is made as follows: 10 per cent. on account of purchase-money, as payment of interest for first three years; a second 10 per cent. at the end of three years, as interest for succeeding period of same extent; at end of six years, one-fourth of the purchase-money, and 10 per cent. on balance still due as interest for third period of three years; and at end of nine years the balance in full remaining due; but the personal resident having fulfilled all the conditions of his contract may complete his purchase and obtain his title at the end of five years.





"The purchaser may at any time pay instalments of not less than 50%, and have his interest at once proportionately reduced.

"No one is allowed at any time to purchase on credit (under the provisions of the present Crown Lands Act) land to a greater extent than 1000 acres; having reached this limit, the purchasing power of the individual is exhausted.

"Lands unsold for two years may be sold by auction for cash, at not less than 1/. per acre unconditionally. Lands unsold for five years may be offered for sale by auction in blocks of 1280 acres, on leasehold for ten years, at an upset rental of sixpence an acre, with right of purchase at end of lease at 1/. per acre."

The discovery in 1843 of the Kapunda mine, about fifty miles to the north of Adelaide, followed two years afterwards by that of the Burra Burra, gave the first impulse to mining enterprise. The latter has been worked out, but not before it had made the fortunes of its owners. It is described as "an immense deposit of exceedingly rich ore, red oxide, malachite, and blue and green carbonates of copper. It was found on the surface, and at first the removal was more like quarrying than mining. Some thousands of tons were taken away before any great depth was sunk

in the shafts. Subsequently shafts and drives were sunk and extended until, in the aggregate, the galleries measured some miles, but the sinking was not carried down to a greater depth than seventy-five fathoms. The total quantity thus raised in the first twenty-one years was 215,132 tons, giving an average produce of 22 per cent.; worth above 4,000,000*l*. The yield has since fallen off, but not before 315*l*. for each share of 5*l*. had been repaid to the lucky holders."

The further discoveries of the Wallaroo and Moonta mines, the latter being reckoned the richest copper-mine in the world, have encouraged this pursuit. Many smaller mines have proved highly remunerative: they are to be found in all directions, indications of copper having been traced over an area of 600 miles from north to south, by 250 from east to west.

It is necessary to observe that the low price of the metal has much affected the success of many mines in late years, and that some of the above-mentioned have temporarily ceased from work.

Other metals, iron, lead, silver, tin, manganese, have been found. None of these have as yet been worked to a profit. Gold has occasionally, but rarely, repaid the labour expended upon it. The country has been so thoroughly searched for other

minerals that it seems unlikely that many new reefs remain undiscovered. It is not therefore likely that South Australia will rank as an auriferous country.

In North Australia numerous reefs have been tested; at first they promised well, but subsequent experience has been very varied. In that wide and only partially-explored region it would be premature to come to any conclusion as to what may be in store. Diamonds and other precious stones have very recently been found in the south, but beyond the fact of their existence nothing definite is known.

#### THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

The colony of South Australia includes the most northern portion of the continent. The "Northern Territory" extends to the Indian Ocean, in lat.  $12^{\circ}$  S., and has for its southern boundary the 26th parallel of latitude; on the east and west it is defined by the 138th and 129th meridians of longitude. The whole of it may therefore be said to lie within the tropics. This enormous tract contains 340,097,280 acres; it was added to the original colony as a reward for the energy in establishing the overland telegraph; such a step may have been necessary to secure safety for the wires,

otherwise it may well be doubted whether it was wise for a young community, already possessing 245,000,000 acres, to undertake the difficult and costly task of governing and settling such a district, differing, as it must always, in interests, objects, industries, and perhaps people. This doubt is deepened by the thought that wherever a real settlement is effected, these differences render it certain that the same process which has separated Victoria and Queensland from New South Wales will be repeated.

The public debt is stated to be nearly 500,000*l.*, and it is yearly increasing. Last year the expenditure reached 50,000*l.*, and the revenue amounted only to 3298*l.* The imposition of new custom duties will, it is calculated, raise the latter to 20,000*l.*, a large sum for 600 or 700 Europeans and 700 Chinese to raise. In the face of these facts it seems premature to talk of a railway to the Gold-fields, which would cost at least 1,000,000*l.*

As yet, this annexation has proved a source of anxiety and of expense. Its earlier years were marked by misfortune, arising from mismanagement ; but the discovery, only a few months ago, of a very rich tract of land on its eastern boundary may bring about an improvement. This district, of which very little definite is yet known, is stated

to consist of 30,000 square miles of rich alluvial plains magnificently grassed. This lies well within the tropic, and its outlet would be a port in Carpentaria.

Experiments in the government gardens at Palmerston, Port Darwin, prove that the soil and climate are well suited for many Indian products. Two settlers from Figi have obtained a grant of 20,000 acres, on condition that they should expend 10,000*l.* upon it, and produce 500 tons of sugar. Permanent development will most probably depend upon the introduction of some Asiatic labour. The solution of this difficult problem will be alluded to in the account of Queensland.

Our knowledge of this whole district is scanty. There is a large quantity of good land, mixed with much of an inferior quality; it is well adapted for rearing cattle, but probably will be found too hot for the growth of wool. There is a large auriferous formation said to cover 1700 square miles, its chief mines being distant 150 miles from Palmerston, but as yet no great "finds" have rewarded the miner. Lead, copper, tin, and other minerals have been found.

Palmerston, the chief town, contains about 400 inhabitants, chiefly Asiatics. It has the usual churches, hotels, and weekly newspaper; it is the terminus of



the telegraph ; steamers through Torres Strait call there, and if the projected railway from Adelaide is made this town will probably become a commercial depôt. Sooner or later a trade between India and Australia must arrive, and in that case the importance of Port Darwin would be apparent, any number of ships can ride there in safety. The water extending over many miles varies in depth from four to fifteen fathoms : in security this harbour is said to equal that of Sydney.

About 3000 of the ubiquitous Chinese have found their way hither, chiefly from Queensland. They and a few Europeans raise about 12,000 ounces of gold in the year.

Nine ships were reported as about to sail from China with passengers. They were in a majority at the Gold-fields as well as in several other places ; and this discouraging competition had diminished the European population. A bill was introduced into Parliament to impose a tax of 10*l*. per head on each Chinese passenger upon arrival, and limiting the number which any ship could carry to one passenger for ten tons' burthen, with other stringent provisions. News of the passing of this bill has not yet been received.

Pastoral occupation is invariably the first to occur ; already immense runs have been applied for, and

partially occupied. The regulations are liberal. Land can be purchased from the Government for 7*s.* 6*d.* per acre, payable sixpence per annum for the first ten years, the remaining 2*s.* 6*d.* at the end of the term, or it may be leased for pastoral purposes at sixpence per square mile.

Recent accounts say that 274,000 acres have been already sold, and that 373,000 are surveyed and open for selection.

A still later return laid upon the table at Adelaide says that in the commencement of the present year, 1880, applications for the occupation of 300,000 square miles had been received ; that the area now held by pastoral tenants was 110,000 square miles ; that the rental paid was 13,800*l.* ; and that on this land there were then depastured 17,000 cattle, 8000 sheep, and 1400 horses. There must be here ample room for an enterprising man in the vigour of youth.

## CHAPTER XVI.

## QUEENSLAND.

QUEENSLAND, the youngest of the Australian colonies, commenced its independent career in 1859. It extends from Cape York in  $11^{\circ}$  to Cape Danger in  $28^{\circ}$  south latitude; the Tropic of Capricorn running nearly through the centre of it. Its area is 430,500,000 acres, just eleven times that of England and Wales. In length and breadth it is 1300 and 1000 miles; 2250 miles of sea-board contain several good ports and harbours—Somerset at Cape York, Cooktown, Townsville, Bowen, Mackay, Gladstone, and Brisbane—and unlike other colonies there are several rivers navigable for a short distance, thus affording facilities for commerce.

The dividing range already mentioned continues its course N.N.E. nearly parallel to the coast, but in some places approaching very closely to

it. Its greatest altitude is in the north, where it attains an altitude of 5160 feet; in the south, Mount Dalrymple reaches the height of 4000 feet. The McKinlay runs from the dividing range at right angles to the west. Thus three distinct watersheds are formed. To the eastward all streams fall into the Pacific after a very short course. They water the "settled district," the most populous, the richest, the most suitable for agriculture, and containing the greatest deposits of coal and of gold. Experience has proved that stock, especially sheep, do not thrive in it, they have consequently been moved further west.

The north-western watershed discharges its rivers to the Gulf of Carpentaria, through a half-settled pastoral country in which the Cloncurry and some other promising mines are found. To the south of the McKinlay range, the Herbert, the Barcoo, the Thompson, the Warrego, and Paroo discharge their contents into the salt lakes or marshes of the distant South Australia, while the Condamine and the Barwon rising in the dividing range near Warwick, not sixty miles from the Pacific, pursue their lengthened, devious course across the whole continent to the Darling, and through that channel and the Murray to Spencer's

Gulf in the same colony. The country thus watered forms the great pastoral plains of Queensland. On the downs and the higher plateaux, sheep do well, but the greater portion of it seems to be more adapted for rearing horses and cattle.

The same meteorological phenomena are seen here as in New South Wales. On the Pacific coast the rainfall is ample if not excessive. In 1878, at Brisbane, fifty-six inches fell on 124 days; at Mackay eighty-six; at Rockingham Bay ninety-eight inches; on 103 and 111 days, Maryborough and Gympie registered respectively forty and forty-five inches: all these are on the Pacific slope.

On the western side at Toowomba, on Darling Downs, 100 miles from Brisbane, only twenty-nine inches fell; while at Roma, Springsure, and the Thompson only nineteen, seventeen, and ten are recorded.

In the north and east, the same geological formation, producing as in New South Wales, gold, copper, and coal, is seen. Mr. Bonwick writes, "The great dividing range, rising like an Andes the whole length of the continent, so rich as it passed through New South Wales, was proved to hold its golden veins from the southern borders of Queensland almost to its most northern point at Cape

York. More than this, the wealth poured forth from the subsiding ranges east and west, till a region above 1000 miles in length and 200 in width was more or less an auriferous one."

That accomplished geologist, the late Mr. Daintree, tells us that one-sixth of the country, extending through 12° of latitude from Cape York, is granitic. He is of opinion that the Devonian rocks are found through 40,000 square miles, and that the carboniferous system is very extensive.

Some of the coal is palæozoic as is the case on the Mackenzie and Dawson; further to the south it is mesozoic. In quality it closely resembles that found in New South Wales. The extent of the fields is enormous. The late Rev. Wm. Branthwaite Clarke, the eminent Australian geologist, considered that those on the Condamine occupied 20,000, and that the seams on the Wolhumbila are to be met with over 6000 square miles. He was of opinion that the Mackenzie beds, to the westward of Rockhampton, extended over 40,000. Other scientific men are of opinion that this formation extends to the Upper Flinders. Mr. R. L. Jack thinks that possibly the whole of the western plains may prove to be a vast field of coal. In many places it can be easily worked, but most of these localities require the construction of railways

for profitable development. At Brisbane and Ipswich extensive beds have been opened at a short distance from water-carriage.

To the west and north-west, the desert sandstone and other tertiary rocks form one-fourth of the colony. Great cretaceous beds extend for 200,000 square miles. Volcanic action is visible over above 30,000 miles; it has formed the rich basaltic downs and plains, the paradise of the squatter both here and in Victoria.

Before concluding these brief notices on geology, we ought to add that in remote time Queensland was evidently of much greater extent; it must have been joined with New Guinea, the formations are indential, the depth of Torres Strait is a very few fathoms, and the flora and fauna are closely united.

Two-thirds of Queensland lie within the tropics. On the northern coast monsoons blow with regularity, dividing the year into seven dry and five wet months—from November to April is the rainy season. The climate cannot be altogether judged by degrees of latitude. On the Darling and Peak Downs lying high above the sea, the air is cool and European fruits flourish; on the eastern coast the ocean breeze tempers the fierce solar heat, and the copious rains tend to mitigate

the temperature. If statistics be a correct test, the climate must be healthy for Europeans, the death-rate never having exceeded 21, while in some places it has been as low as 14 per thousand. This fact is the more remarkable, as the deaths from accident and from infantile diseases are frequent. The birth-rate is very high, a fact which probably is caused by the preponderance of immigrants arriving in the prime of life. It must also be remembered that as yet the population has been for the most part confined to the high plain and to the sea coast. When the low lands and north are occupied the figures may be different.

The "Colonisation Circular," issued by the Emigration Commissioners in 1877, remarks,—

"In the more northern parts, especially on low lands, the heat of the tropical sun is too great to be comfortable for English constitutions, especially in cases of newly-arrived immigrants—nevertheless it is certain that Europeans pursue the laborious occupation of gold-mining within tropical limits, between the 21st and 15th parallels of south latitude, where many gold-mines are found, but at what cost to their health there has scarcely yet been time to determine. There appears to be no reason for thinking that the cultivation of cotton and sugar, and other tropical productions will prove to be



more suitable to Europeans in Australia than they have proved to be in other tropical regions. The smallness of the death-rate in the colony, however, may be taken to show that the staple employment of the population and the climate of Queensland are not unfavourable to human life. The colony is free from endemic diseases, and epidemics are of rare occurrence."

Here, as in all the sister colonies, the pastoral is the most powerful interest, and the most profitable pursuit ; it affords the most easy method of at once utilizing vacant lands. On the Darling Downs, and in some other of the older and more favoured districts, the country is all fenced in, and residences in which every luxury of civilization is to be met with are not uncommon. In the remoter regions recently "taken up," squatting is still seen in its more primitive form. On the Thompson, famed for its fattening qualities, on the Herbert, on its recently discovered rich alluvial plains, on the Warrego and Paroo herds roam at large, and flocks are shepherded as in former days. "Runs" are still to be obtained in the far west. Applications for "new runs" must be accompanied by a year's rent. The area of a run varies from 25 to 100 square miles, this maximum is often evaded by applying under several names. For the

first five years the rent is 5s. per square mile, for the second 10s., and for the third period 15s., but these rates are subject to revision on either side within moderate limits. "Unwatered runs" may be had for a rent of 3s. Some of the most fattening are apparently the most barren plains, on which a trifling expenditure often produces an ample return.

In 1878, 406 "new runs," containing 22,530 square miles, were applied for. "Unwatered runs" with an area of 43,784 were also taken up. One-tenth of the whole colony, more than the size of England and Wales, was thus occupied within a twelvemonth, so rapid is the march of Queensland.

The Government returns for that year give a total of 5,564,465 sheep, 2,443,501 cattle, and 147,706 horses. These were the numbers after a very severe drought, which had not only prevented any increase but had diminished the stock in that year by 412,000 sheep.

Droughts and occasional floods are not the only drawbacks upon the welfare of the squatters. Mr. Bonwick mentions that in 1872 a light yield of wool produced 2,635,000*l.*, and that an increased clip in 1877 only fetched 1,449,682*l.*, a result produced by a fall in the price in the English market.

When the export of fresh meat is fully established, as now seems to be probable, the proximity of Queensland to India and China, where a large market is open, will prove of great advantage to the northern stock-owners.

Should a settler prefer to purchase his land, ample facilities are afforded to him. Crown lands are divided under three heads: agricultural is valued at 15s. per acre; first-class pastoral at 10s.; second-class pastoral at 5s. Payment may be extended over ten years in equal annual instalments. Agricultural farms vary from 40 to 640 acres. First-class pastoral from 80 to 2560, and second-class pastoral from 80 to 5620. Provisions for actual occupation, either by personal residence or by permanent improvements are insisted upon. Leases of land for sugar-planting are granted at a rent of 2s. 6d. per acre; the area varies from 320 to 1280 acres; conditions of residence until one-tenth of the farm is in cultivation are enforced.

The "Homestead Area Act" gives additional facilities. It was passed in 1872, and amended four years afterwards. Districts in which agricultural farms of 130, and of mixed pastoral and agricultural land containing 320 acres, can be obtained by five annual payments of sixpence per acre, residence until the whole amount is paid, and an

expenditure in improvements of 10s. per acre are required. In case of competition, the rent is ascertained by auction.

It is not easy to predict the future of agriculture. That there is an unusual proportion of fertile land, and that the quantity of rain is more favourable to it than in the south cannot be doubted; but whether European crops can be grown to advantage in a climate where sugar, cotton, pine-apples, bananas, guavas, and every Indian product flourishes, may be questioned. It is true that the average return of corn does not compare unfavourably with that in other parts of Australia, but it is worthy of notice that for some reason agriculture does not seem to be a favourite calling in Queensland. In South Australia there are nearly seven, in Victoria nearly two acres under tillage per head of the population; in Queensland only '56. The nature of the crops also is very different. There were only 9618 acres of wheat, and 132 of oats—probably on Darling Downs—but on the other hand there were 16,584 of sugar-cane, 53,799 of maize, 125 of arrowroot, 462 of bananas, and 184 of pine-apples. If the Queensland farmer is to depend upon tropical produce, a serious question arises whether highly paid European labour can compete under a burning sun with the cheaper wages of

colonial races in Java, the Mauritius, and India, and whether for success in such occupations it may not be necessary to introduce Chinese or Coolies.

The experience already obtained in the cultivation of cotton furnishes a good example. The high prices caused by the American War caused a rage for its growth, and large bounties were offered by the Government to encourage it. In 1871 there were 6000 bales raised ; now only thirty-seven acres remain under that crop. At the present time sugar is in fashion. An import duty of 5*l.* per ton gives a monopoly of the home market ; but as a uniform duty of 5*l.* is imposed in New South Wales and Victoria on the product of Queensland, and on that of Manilla, Java, &c.—where it can be more cheaply procured—the former is practically excluded from those markets. It is more than doubtful whether the limited demand for a home consumption could support any very large increase of the present acreage.

Gold is not affected by competition, although tin and copper, in both of which metals Queensland is rich, may feel the effect of foreign rival mines. The first-named metal is not so pure as that found in Victoria, and is only valued at 3*l.* 10*s.* per ounce. The mode of working is the same. The alluvial diggings are now chiefly in the hands of the

Chinese, who have taken possession of the Paliver in the extreme north, where the shallow diggings and "rich dirt" have attracted 10,000 from the "Flowery Land." In other places they worked diggings abandoned by fastidious Englishmen.

At Gympie and Maryborough the gold is chiefly extracted from quartz. At the former it lies in patches, and some extraordinary returns have been the result. 11,996 tons of quartz have yielded the enormous average of 6 oz. 8 dwt. The odd penny-weights would have paid well. Some marvellous instances are mentioned, but they are clearly exceptional. Maryborough has also been very productive.

Queensland is the only colony in which the yield has not diminished. In 1873 it amounted to 717,540*l*. In 1877 it had increased to 1,611,103*l*. Since that year no accounts have been furnished. From the Palmer to Brisbane, from the Pacific to the Cloncurry, on the borders of South Australia, it is difficult to find a district in which "the colour" has not been found.

Copper may be said to be distributed over the whole colony. In many places, as at the Cloncurry and the Peak range, the mines are of extraordinary richness, but are unworkable for want of convenient carriage. The same may be said of

iron ; rich and extensive beds are known. Carriage, capital, labour, and a demand for it when smelted, are all that can be required to cover the land with furnaces.

Tin is a metal for which there is such a limited market that only the best mines can be worked. In 1872 great hopes were raised by the discovery of alluvial tin, and nearly 100,000*l.* was obtained in that year by the labour of 2000 men. In the following year the yield was doubled, but prices fell ; in 1878 only 36,000*l.* were raised.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### QUEENSLAND.

IN the case of Queensland it is unnecessary to give our usual historical account of its rise until the full development of constitutional institutions. This arises from the fact that the colony had no existence prior to that event. In its earliest days it was known as the Moreton Bay district of New South Wales. In 1824 a penal settlement was founded there, but it was not until 1842 that it was thrown open for free settlement. In 1859 it was detached by Act of Parliament from New South Wales, and was constituted as the Colony of Queensland. Within a very few months full powers of self-government were conferred upon it.

At that time it had a population of 25,020. The first official census, in 1861, gave an aggregate of 30,059. This had increased to 206,797 in 1878. The last official census, in 1876, stated that there



were 62,000 members of the Church of England, 50,000 Protestants of other denominations, 43,000 Roman Catholics. There are 14,534 Chinese, chiefly upon the gold-fields.

The constitution resembles that granted to New South Wales. The Legislative Council of twenty-four was nominated by the Crown for life. The Lower House was composed of forty-two members, elected by a constituency consisting of freeholders and householders of such small value that it approaches but does not extend to universal suffrage. These provisions have not as yet been altered, but in all probability the same democratic changes which have been seen in New South Wales and Victoria will eventually be made.

Since 1859 there have been four Governors, Sir George Bowen, Colonel Blackall, the Marquis of Normanby, and Sir Arthur Kennedy, the present occupant of that office, to which a salary of 5000*l.* per annum is attached. During the twenty years which have elapsed there have been eleven ministries. The success of responsible government has been at least as great here as in more matured communities.

The great danger to Queensland is financial. Its large area renders railways a necessity, and rival interests create a scramble for so great an advan-

tage. Fears are entertained that the expenditure upon these and other objects, defrayed by English loans, has not always been judicious. That lively writer, Mr. A. Trollope, tells his readers of an utterly useless railway from Rockhampton, which did not pay for the grease used upon it. Since he wrote, it has been extended, and it is said now to defray all working expenses, a contrast to what is seen in New South Wales, where the nett profits pay the whole interest on the loan contracted for the purpose. A reference to tables in the Appendix will show that in New South Wales the debt was 16*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* per head of the population, and was equal to 2·35 years' income, and that the expenditure was reproductive and likely to become a source of revenue. In Queensland the debt in 1878 was 8,935,350*l.*; it was 42*l.* 8*s.* 1·1*d.* per head, and equivalent to 5·73 years' revenue. In 1880 it had increased to 10,192,150*l.* The rapid growth and wonderful resources of the latter colony may stand such a strain, but clearly caution is necessary.

There are already opened in the south 240, and in the north 119 miles of railway; further works are projected. The last proposal is to connect the Gulf of Carpentaria with the Eastern coast by a line constructed at a cost of 10,000,000*l.* This large sum, it is hoped, can be obtained from English

capitalists in return for 8,000,000 of acres selected in alternate blocks along the line.<sup>1</sup> There are also 10,000 miles of other roads, maintained at an expenditure of 180,000*l.* per annum. Above 5000 miles of telegraph wire have been laid ; this service also shows a loss. This extraordinary enterprise and energy has not led to the neglect of education ; in 1878 there were 346 schools, 41,500 scholars ; the cost to the revenue was 81,071*l.* The system is free, undenominational, and is not compulsory.

In addition to the political questions which affect the other colonies, Queensland has some of peculiar interest to herself. Nature has settled that the north should be a scene of tropical industry ; for this end many consider that the presence of a coloured race is essential. Such necessity does not arise in the south, nor in the pastoral districts of the west of Queensland. These are the present

<sup>1</sup> "BRISBANE, *Wednesday*.—In the Assembly to-day the Premier moved the second reading of the Railway Companies Preliminary Bill, which was intended to give an idea to those willing to make railways on the system of land grants, as to what proposals the Parliament are prepared to accept. The bonus to contractors is 8000 acres a mile in alternate blocks, the line to remain the property of the company, who can borrow readily in the English market, the Government guaranteeing interest on one-third of the cost, which will be secured by the right to take possession of the line in the event of the company failing to pay the interest. If the bill is passed, a line will be made from Roma to Carpentaria. It is believed that there is a good harbour at Point Parker."





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04. BARBARA

seats of political power ; in them the opposition has so far been successful, that this immigration is discouraged by the imposition of a poll-tax, and of additional charges for licence fees. It may be difficult to justify such legislation theoretically.

Another kind of coloured labour has proved a fruitful source of discord. The exigencies of employers of labour led them to import Kanakas from the South Sea Islands. This system has been upon the whole successful, and has not deserved all the censure bestowed upon it. The condition of the Kanakas was doubtless improved ; on the other hand some abuses inevitably arose. It was always unpopular with the masses, was hampered by legislation, and was discouraged by England. The source of supply is so limited that it never can become a source of national danger, natural causes will extinguish it before many years elapse.

The seat of government is at Brisbane ; its situation in the extreme south causes much inconvenience, and will prove a powerful factor in any question as to the future subdivision of the province. This city is situated on a river of the same name about twenty miles from its junction with the sea. It is almost entirely surrounded by a bend of the river. In one street ships lie at each end ; very considerable sums have been expended upon

the improvement of the navigation, and ships of 1500 tons can now discharge their cargoes at the wharves.

Brisbane contains above 30,000 persons ; it is the seat of Bishops of the Churches of England and of Rome, the northern portion of the colony forming a distinct see of the first-named church. It has some handsome buildings, amongst which may be named the Government House, and the Houses of Parliament. Three parks and well laid out botanic gardens ornament this town, which altogether presents an attractive aspect. The river is spanned by an iron bridge 1000 feet in length, through which there are two openings to permit the passage of large vessels.

A good supply of water is obtained from a reservoir on the Ennogerra Creek, at a distance of seven miles ; it is calculated to hold sufficient for several years' consumption. The municipal government is administered by a mayor, alderman, and town council.

Brisbane is the chief seat of trade ; but it is a peculiarity of Queensland, attributable to its great extent of sea-board, that there are several distinct centres of commerce, each of which regards its rivals with jealousy, and insists on having railway communication with the interior. It is not therefore

probable that there will ever be seen such large emporiums of trade as have sprung up at Sydney and Melbourne, supplied as they are by an enormous back country, and being as they are centres of large railway systems. Cooktown, in the far north, now ranks next to Brisbane in its external trade ; it has a population of 10,000. Rockhampton has an equal number of inhabitants ; it is the outlet for a large mining and pastoral district ; the streets are wide, and a fine esplanade, planted with trees, gives to it a more civilized appearance than is often to be found in mushroom townships. Gladstone, to the south of Rockhampton has so far proved a failure ; its fine harbour, shut in by mountains, and government patronage have failed to attract settlers ; when it is connected by railway with Rockhampton it may improve. Other towns of minor importance exist, and many more as yet unheard of, may arise, and may probably take the lead before many years have passed.

This feeling of jealous rivalry must lead in time to a further division of this enormous territory. No community of feeling or of interest can subsist between Brisbane in the extreme south, and Carpentaria 1400 miles to the north of it. Differences of climate and of industries, point out that such a measure will eventually be found to be a necessity.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

WESTERN Australia, known in its infancy as the Swan River, is the least prosperous and most extensive of any of this group of colonies. It occupies one-third of the continent, that portion of it lying to the west of the 129th degree of longitude. From north to south it is 1250 miles in length, and from east to west it measures 800 miles. It thus has an area of 1,000,000 square miles.

This vast tract is nominally under the government at Perth, in the extreme south-west, but as a matter of fact the only population is in and around that and a few towns on the coast, such as Roeburne in the north-west, where there are about 400 whites, chiefly arrivals from Victoria, and where there is some good country.

There are but few marked features in the scenery. The land rises gently from the coast until at a dis-

tance of 70 miles it in some places attains an elevation of 3000 feet. Between this, the "Darling Range," if so it can be called, and the shore, the land is for the most part poor and sandy ; in many places covered with timber, for the most part of an inferior character. In spots where land has been cleared, good crops are produced, but large districts seem to be unfit for occupation. To the eastward of this range the country up to the South Australian boundary may be looked upon as desert ; *spinnifex* reigns supreme, and desolation spreads on all sides. In the more settled districts, many places, which at first sight seem to be fit for pasture, are rendered useless for stock by a poisonous plant from which the most careful attention cannot keep the sheep. In the extreme north, beyond the Oakover River, a considerable tract of fertile pasture, free from poison, and said to contain 25,000,000 acres, has recently been discovered ; it is situated just within the tropic, and unless this circumstance renders it too hot for Europeans, Roeburne may prove a prosperous settlement. It is doubtful whether sheep will be profitable ; but good cattle runs doubtless may be had. This town is the centre of the pearl fishery.

Although wide-spreading, sandy deserts may not justify the sarcasm of an American traveller, who on

hearing that Western Australia was a fine country, replied, "Yes ; fine enough to run through an hour-glass," still its general character is indubitable : sand and the want of water have given an aridity to the climate which is most conducive to health. The death-rate since the first arrival in 1829 is stated to have been only 10 per thousand. Deaths sometimes exceed that proportion ; in 1878, the population being 28,166, the deaths amounted to 394. This extraordinary proof of health led to the hope that a sanatorium for British India could be established in this delightful climate, where the breeze from the Indian Ocean tempers the heat, and imparts balm to the air ; but improved communications between that country and England have superseded the necessity of such a resort.

In the southern districts, where alone meteorological tables have been framed, the rainfall is about 30 inches, most of which falls between the months of April and September. It is fairly equable in its distribution ; no very severe floods or droughts, such as are felt in other places, are experienced in Western Australia.

The flora is especially rich and peculiar, unequalled elsewhere, as we are told by Sir Joseph Hooker. The beauty and variety of the wild flowers on the sand-hills around Albany exceed

the imagination. European fruits and flowers flourish wherever they have been introduced. Wheat and other cereals compare favourably with the best in these colonies.

The indigenous timber is generally of the same type as throughout the continent. One tree, the jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), a species of mahogany, is of great value and is largely exported. It is of great hardness and resists the termites and teredo. It is said to cover 1000 square miles generally of the poorest soil, where it is said to grow best. Sandal-wood is also largely exported. The trade in it varies much from year to year; in some years it has amounted to 70,000*l.*; it was first commenced in 1845.

Geology is in the main the same as in the adjacent colonies. The immense formation of tertiary sandstone occupies the greater part of Western Australia and produces the same desolation. In such a wide tract much variety is of course to be found. In the north there has been considerable volcanic action, and quartz is widely spread, but the reward of 5000*l.* offered for the discovery of a "payable" gold-field has never as yet been awarded. Rich veins of lead are found at Northampton, about thirty miles from Geraldton, at Champion Bay, to which port a railway is being

made. This and another at Geographe Bay for the carriage of timber are the only lines as yet opened. Coal or lignite has been found about twenty miles from Champion Bay, and borings are now carried out by the Government to test its quality. Excellent copper-ore exists, but its profitable working, as well as that of the Northampton mines, depends upon the result of these trials. It is much to be regretted that the statistics have not been compiled as carefully as they might have been.

Perth, the seat of government, has a population of 6000. It is a pretty town laid out in broad streets many of which are planted with trees, the Cape Lilacs, but out of the main thoroughfare passengers are ankle deep in sand. The principal street is nearly two miles in length. It is built upon sloping ground on a long reach of the river about twelve miles from its mouth. There are some good buildings. The Government House is fine, as is also the City Hall in which the Legislature meets. Two cathedrals ornament the town.

The port is at Freemantle, with which town Perth is connected by a macadamized road. A railway is now nearly completed which will be extended from Perth to Guildford. Freemantle has 4000 inhabitants, and, owing to the shipping, has an air of business unknown elsewhere in West

Australia. The soil is a dazzling white sand, and the footways are formed of a white pavement distressing to the eye. There is hardly a tree to be seen, and no shade is to be found. About ten miles southward lies the Clarence Settlement, where the first immigrants landed, the only remnants of their abortive efforts consist of a well, a bucket, and a chain.

Albany, at King George's Sound, has a splendid harbour, which until lately was used by the Peninsular and Oriental Company. This gave it an importance and attracted a population of 1000 souls, but since the withdrawal of the company's fleet it has rather diminished. This port might easily be defended from hostile attacks, and steps should be taken to protect it, as even a temporary occupation of it would paralyse the whole trade of Australia.

A suspected design on the part of France to land upon the southern coast led to the formation of a settlement here in 1825 under Major Lockyer. This was in 1830 transferred to the colony of the Swan River which had been founded in the previous year. Captain (afterwards Sir James) Stirling was the first Governor, for his services in which capacity a grant of 100,000 acres was subsequently made to him.

Various proposals had been made for the colonization of the south-west, but none of them had any result. At length it was determined to give large grants of crown lands to persons complying with certain conditions as to the introduction of immigrants and of capital,—the science of colonization was as yet in its infancy. The proposal of Mr. John Peel to land 250 persons at his own cost, on condition of receiving a grant of 250,000 acres was accepted; this was to have been extended to 1,000,000 acres upon the fulfilment of further conditions. The improvidence of making such large grants has often been represented as the chief cause of the subsequent disasters which from the commencement attended on this settlement. Doubtless it was one of them, but there must have been others to prevent the natural increase of flocks and herds. The first attempt to colonize was made in the worst part of the territory; until wider extension took place no progress was made—this retarded growth.

The first census, January 17th, 1830, showed that there were 850 inhabitants, that they owned 204 head of cattle, 598 sheep, and 525,000 acres of land. Four years later the sheep had increased to 6000, and 1000 acres were under the plough. In 1878, as appears in the Appendix, the number of the population had reached 28,166, cattle 56,158,

sheep 869,325, horses 32,851; a result of forty-eight years' work so insignificant in comparison with what has been seen in other colonies some years younger, that it is clear there must have been some deep-seated cause for it.

Progress continued to be slow under the Government of Sir James Stirling, Mr. John Hutt, and Captain Irwin. In 1849 the whole population amounted only to 4622. Despair of success had followed upon undue expectations, and as a last resource, petitions were forwarded to England that the colony should be converted into a penal settlement. Stipulations were at the same time made that free immigrants equal in number to that of the prisoners, should be sent out at the expense of Imperial funds. These proposals were gladly accepted in England, and transportation continued until 1868, when it was finally abolished. During these years 10,000 male convicts were sent out accompanied by free, chiefly female immigrants. Fortunately the moral results have not been as unhappy as many feared they might prove. Improved discipline avoided many of the errors which had prevailed in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. Great physical impulse was given to this somewhat somnolent settlement.

Captain Fitzgerald, in whose time this change



was made, was followed in 1855 by Mr. Arthur Kennedy. The Bishopric of Perth was now established, and the Rev. Matthew Hale, Archdeacon of Adelaide, was consecrated as first occupant of the new see.

Dr. John Stephen Hampton was the next Governor. His lengthened experience in Van Diemen's Land would, it was thought, render him peculiarly fit for the management of this new penal settlement. Public works were pushed on with comparative vigour. Mr. Frederick Aloysius Weld, recently removed from Tasmania to the Straits Settlements succeeded. He had been for many years resident in New Zealand, and had held there the highest official positions. He brought with him some of the enterprise and activity which have characterized those go-ahead islands. He assumed the government when transportation had ceased, and he proved himself to be well fitted to guide the councils of the colony through the transition from tutelage to that of self-reliance and freedom. Representative government was now partially introduced, municipal institutions were established, a sound system of education was inaugurated, the first railway was commenced, and several expeditions for the exploration of the interior were undertaken by Forrest and others with more or

less success. An impulse was thus given to West Australia, the effects of which are still felt. Slow but sure progress continued under his successors, Sir William Cleaver Robinson and Sir Harry Ord. The Governor's salary is only 2500*l.*, the lowest in Australia.

The following tabular statement will show the progress made in five years :—

	1873.		1878.
Population . . .	25,761	.	28,166
Revenue . . .	134,832	.	163,344
Imports . . .	297,328	.	379,050
Exports . . .	265,217	.	428,491
Sheep . . .	748,536	.	869,325
Cattle . . .	47,640	.	56,158

In these five years the departures exceeded the arrivals by 434—this is not encouraging. The public debt is 361,000*l.*

Railways are yet in their infancy, but various lines have been surveyed.

There are 1500 miles of telegraph and the system is connected with South Australia by a line 750 miles in length from Albany.

The small population, and the fact that until very recently a large portion of it had been convicts, prevented the introduction of full constitutional privileges. Western Australia is still a

Crown colony. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council composed of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the senior military officer. There is a Legislative Council of twenty-one members, seven of whom are official or nominees of the Crown and fourteen who are elected by holders of houses of 10% annual value. The members must own 1000% in land. State aid is still granted to the chief religious denominations in proportion to their numbers; strict religious equality is thus secured. The numbers of these in 1871 were as follows: Church of England, 14,699; Roman Catholics, 7118; Wesleyans, 1374; Congregationalists, 882; Presbyterians, 529. In the primary schools there were 7152 children.

The land laws are very simple. Country lands in lots of not less than forty acres are sold at the fixed price of 10s. per acre. Town and suburban lots are submitted to auction. Moderate rents are demanded for the occupation of Crown lands for pastoral purposes.

As an inducement to immigrants to remain, a privilege of selecting fifty acres is given to any immigrant, whether he has paid for his own passage or it has been defrayed by the Government, after a residence of two years; each immigrant between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one

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is also entitled to twenty-five acres ; but no family can receive more than 150. These inducements are extended to labourers from the adjacent colonies. In spite of these tempting offers emigration exceeds immigration.

## CHAPTER XIX.

## TASMANIA.

THIS island, formerly called Van Diemen's Land is separated from Australia by Bass Strait, 120 miles in width. Numerous islands in a shallow depth, under 100 fathoms, clearly indicate that at a former period they were connected together. Its total area is 16,778,000 acres ; of these 1,118,000 are situated in the adjacent islands, and 75,000 are covered with lakes ; 4,000,000 acres have already been alienated by the Crown ; 1,500,000 are leased for sheep runs and other uses.

For its size, it contains as much beauty of scenery as any portion of the world ; almost the whole of the surface is occupied by mountain ranges clothed with dark forests, in which are trees of extraordinary grandeur. Many of these mountains exceed 4000 feet in height, the most lofty being the Cradle Mountain and Ben Lomond, the former measuring

5070, the latter 5010 feet. Count Strzlecki speaks of Mount Humboldt as reaching to 5520. Snow lies in these ranges for the greater part of the year. Lakes and running rivers—not strings of water-holes—fill the valleys; the same animals and plants as are found upon the mainland are to be met with.

The geological formation is also similar. The same minerals are found, but the broken nature of the country has made the working of them difficult. Quartz veins with gold in them, have been opened, and some of them promise well. Tin in large quantities has been raised at Mount Bischoff upon the western coast, and bids fair to prove a permanent and valuable export. Rich deposits of iron exist at Ilfracombe upon the Tamar, and a company has been formed to develop them. Lead and other metals are in abundance; at some future time these cannot fail to add to the wealth of the island.

There is a considerable quantity of coal of good quality widely diffused, but as yet, not much worked.

The greater part of the country, to the westward of the great range is still unexplored, all settlement having as yet been made upon the eastern side.

The coast-line, deeply indented with bays, con-

tains good and well-sheltered harbours. Off the shore there are about fifty islands, all of them being comprised within the limits of the colony.

The climate is perfect, the clearness of the atmosphere remarkable, and the cool southern breeze richly charged with ozone, has rendered this island the sanatorium for men exhausted by the heat and jaded by the restless activity of the mainland. The mean-temperature at Hobart Town is  $54^{\circ}$ . The greatest heat during twenty-five years was in January, 1849, when the extraordinary heat of  $105^{\circ}$  was recorded; in the same year the lowest ever known,  $29.40$ , is mentioned. Rain is not confined to one season; at Hobart Town the average rainfall is 22 inches on 145 days. In some localities 100 inches have been known to deluge the lands.

The soil in the northern and eastern divisions is fertile. In this "England of the South," smiling farms and gardens cultivated with care are to be seen on all sides.

As it is some years since the author was himself in Tasmania, he prefers to quote the words of others, even if the terms appear to him rather exaggerated. Count Strzlecki writes, "The English-looking cottages, snug farm-houses and mansions, surrounded by cultivated fields, the neat villages and prominently placed churches, make

the scenery very English, and altogether point to Tasmania as the Britain of the South."

More recently, Mr. William Howitt thus expresses his admiration :—

" All round these villages, which consist of substantial and even elegant houses, extend the richest fields enclosed with hedges, generally of sweet-brier, or furze, or broom, but also a good many of honest English hawthorn. Then you see cattle, sheep, pigs enormously fat, and abundance of poultry of all kinds feeding and flourishing in their respective resorts, the meadows, the woodlands, slopes, or farmyards. Everywhere you descry lovely country houses, with all the earthly blessings of fine gardens well walled in, with their conservatories and forcing-houses, their extensive shrubberies, verdant parks and lawns, fields in pasture or under the plough, and woods sloping solemnly with a very tempting aspect."

The only drawback upon the happiness of these too fortunate husbandmen is that they are blessed with a plethora of profusion, and that they have no outlet for their produce. The protective tariff of Victoria excludes them from their best and most natural market; English fruits hang ungathered on the trees, but notwithstanding all obstacles they constitute the second most valuable export.



150,000/. of jam is annually shipped, principally to Victoria.

The general similarity to England has encouraged the perpetuation of British tastes, habits, and ideas. English sports have been introduced. Hunting, shooting, racing, have long been practised. Coursing has recently been made possible by the introduction of hares. These animals and rabbits have been acclimatized and have multiplied so rapidly that they promise to become a greater plague than in this country. Salmon and trout have, after many attempts, been successfully imported. Herds of deer roam through the mountains. The highlands of Scotland, as well as the fields of England, have been reproduced beneath the southern cross.

Hobart Town, or, as it is in future to be called, Hobart, the seat of government, is built upon two small hills, between which a brisk stream runs, falling into the Derwent at a point ten miles from its mouth. This noble river, or rather inlet of the sea, is navigable for a few miles further up. In convenience and beauty it is only second to the far-famed harbour of Sydney; in some respects the scenery of the Derwent has the advantage. No grand background like Mount Wellington, 4000 feet in height, at a distance of five miles

towers behind Sydney. All the navies in the world can ride with ease in this land-locked lake ; the approach to this scene of grandeur by Tasmania Peninsula and Pillar Cape is very striking.

Hobart Town is well and tastefully built ; it contains some good public buildings and churches. The Government House is a splendid residence, quite too large for the country or for the salary of the occupant, whose salary has been reduced to 3500*l*. The view from it is unsurpassed for magnificent beauty.

Mr. Anthony Trollope thus describes the town and vicinity :—

“It is beautifully situated just at the point where the river becomes sea ; it is surrounded by hills and mountains from which views can be had which would make the fortune of any district in Europe—and the air of Hobart Town is perfect air. I found the summer weather delicious. . . . Art, art in the hands of convicts has made it a pretty, clean, well-constructed town with good streets and handsome buildings. The Government House is, I believe acknowledged to be the best belonging to any British colony. It stands about a mile from the town, on ground sloping to the Derwent, and lacks nothing necessary for a perfect English residence.”

Well laid out botanic gardens in immediate contiguity to it add to the attractions of the spot. These and a park of 1000 acres are much frequented by the citizens.

This city is the seat of bishops of the Churches of England and of Rome, the former with a stipend of 1200*l.* a year. He has under him 41 clergy, who officiate in 100 permanent or temporary places of worship. The census taken in 1870 shows that out of a population of 99,328 the Church of England reckoned 53,047 members; that there were 22,071 Roman Catholics, 7064 Presbyterians, and 7187 Wesleyans. The returns two years later enumerate 316 places of worship belonging to the various denominations, attached to them there were Sunday-schools with 10,011 pupils.

Tasmania cannot boast of a university, but the "Council of Education" confer the degree of "Associate of Arts" on men and women alike; they also award eight scholarships of 200*l.*, tenable for four years, to provide education at any English University. Some minor scholarships and exhibitions are also open for competition. Matriculation examinations for the Universities of London and of Melbourne are annually held.

Primary education is provided for in 164 schools

There were in 1878 twelve thousand four hundred and thirty-three distinct children upon the rolls, but the average attendance was only 6032. The law insists upon the attendance of every child between the age of seven and fourteen, unless a special exemption be granted.

Launceston is the only other town of any size. It has about 12,000 inhabitants, and is situated on the Tamar, at the head of the navigation, about forty miles from the sea. It is a dull agricultural town with a considerable local trade in a fine farming district. A railway 133 miles in length connects it with Hobart Town. This line was constructed by an English company, the capital of 650,000*l.* having been raised on the credit of a government guarantee of five per cent. for thirty years. The obligation to pay this interest has been disputed upon the ground that the work had not been executed in a satisfactory manner, and that fraud had been used by the contractors. Negotiations for the purchase of the line by the Government have been commenced with a view to a settlement of the dispute.<sup>1</sup> The control of all

<sup>1</sup> In the report of the Tasmania Railway Company for 1879, it is stated "that the traffic receipts for the year were 49,277*l.* against 46,093*l.* in 1878, while the total expenditure was 52,747*l.* against 55,719*l.*" It does not pay working expenses.

the public communications would thus be in the hands of the Tasmanian executive, as is the case throughout Australia. The only other railway is an extension of this line from Launceston to Deloraim, a distance of 45 miles : it runs through the finest land. Three thousand miles of roads are under the control of different "Road Trusts;" 1100 miles of telegraph wire connect 79 stations, and one single cable connects Tasmania with Melbourne, and with the rest of the world.

A reference to the Appendix shows a comparatively slow progress. The natural pastures, although well adapted for the growth of wool cannot compete in fattening with the warmer open downs of the mainland; a large proportion of the meat has to be imported. The average returns from agriculture compare favourably with those in the other colonies, but the want of a market has been fatal to any great profits from farming. The result has been that the more enterprising of all classes have been attracted from their homes by the wider sphere for activity found upon the continent. Tasmania has thus come to be known as "the sleepy hollow," and probably will continue to be so until further discoveries, which may at any time be made, call attention to its many merits. Meanwhile there are few places where living is cheaper, where the moderate enjoyments of life may be

more easily gratified, and where life can be passed more agreeably. The general health is proved by the low death-rate, averaging 16 per thousand. In one quinquennial period it was as low as 13½. The climate seems to be peculiarly suited for children. Dr. E. Hall says, "No part of the world is perhaps more favourable to infant life than Tasmania; about nine out of ten children survive the first year of life, and the mortality from that age up to fourteen years old decreases at a wonderful rate." The deaths from consumption in 1871 were less than one-third of the rate in England: all sorts of epidemics are very rare.

Tasmania ranks next to South Australia in the quantity of land in cultivation in proportion to her population (*vide* Appendix); as the average produce per acre is higher, and wages, with other expenses, are lower, the profits ought to be larger. The want of a market blights this fair prospect; but as the English market is equally open to both, it is hard to see why Tasmania should not export to this country on as good terms. It will be observed that the external trade in proportion to population is even lower than in West Australia. Another table shows that her taxation is higher and that her total revenue derived from all sources is lower than in any of her sisters.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Although Tasmanian exports and imports show a considerable

The increase in her population has been slow although considerable encouragement is given to immigration. Any person who has paid a cabin passage for himself and family can demand a grant of thirty acres for himself, twenty for his wife and ten for each of his children. Agents in London are authorized to issue to approved emigrants above fifteen years of age, paying their own passage, land orders for 18*l.*, if below that age for 9*l.*; these orders are received as cash at any public land sale; bounty tickets are issued to residents who may wish to introduce their friends. Notwithstanding this liberal aid, the fact remains, that in thirty-six years, ending 1874, the number of free immigrants were only 24,526 and that in that year only eighteen free passages were defrayed by the public funds.

The land laws are very liberal; the upset price of agricultural land is 1*l.*; for pastoral the minimum upset price is 5*s.* per acre.

“Any person may select for purchase by private

increase, it is mainly owing to minerals alone. While other exports have remained stationary, the production of gold and tin has risen from 15,000*l.* in 1872, to over half-a-million in 1879. The gold-fields now boast a considerable population, and many of the companies are doing well. The Tasmania Company, at Beaconsfield, which has a population of 1200 persons, has paid 140,000*l.* in dividends since July, 1878. Had it not been for the success of mining, the colony would have sustained a severe financial crisis.”—*From Hobart Town Mercury.*

contract with the Government, one lot of agricultural land not exceeding 320 acres at 1*l.* per acre on the following terms, as exemplified to the extent of 100 acres :—

	£	s.	d.
" 100 acres at 1 <i>l.</i> . . . .	100	0	0
Add one-third for credit . . . .	33	6	8
	<hr/>		
	£133	6	8
	<hr/>		
Cash at time of purchase . . . .	3	6	8
Ditto first year . . . . .	5	0	0
Ditto second year . . . . .	5	0	0
Ditto third, fourth, and fol- lowing years up to 14 years . . . . .	10	0	0 a year."

The political constitution is analogous to that of Victoria. Both houses are elective ; the Legislative Council by 30*l.* freeholders, graduates, clergy, &c. ; the House of Assembly by 7*l.* freeholders. Public affairs have been managed fairly well, credit stands high, the debentures being quoted in the London exchange on a par with the best. The debt is 1,758,500*l.* The revenue in 1878 amounted to 381,909*l.*, of which nearly 18,000*l.* was derived from Imperial funds, the last remains of the old convict expenditure.

When the island was first occupied in August,



1803, the intention was to form a penal settlement for the more dangerous convicts, especially for those implicated in the Irish Rebellion of 1798. After some hesitation the site for the future settlement was fixed at Hobart Town, so named after the Colonial Secretary of the time. Little need be related of its earlier history under Collins, Davey, and Sorrell, who were Lieutenant-Governors, whilst it continued to be a dependency of New South Wales. Few free settlers arrived, and progress was at first so slow that in the first seven years the population had only increased to 1321. Bush-ranging was rife; the wild mountains and forests affording shelter to these outlaws.

In December, 1825, Van Diemen's Land was separated from New South Wales. It then had a population of 8000. These owned 200,000 sheep and 36,000 head of cattle. They had 15,000 acres in cultivation. Colonel (afterwards Sir George) Arthur was the first Governor, who continued to rule it until 1836. He was an able, if somewhat an imperious man, with a strong will. His influence was always exerted for the promotion of decency and morality, which had been hitherto too much neglected. Public works were pushed forward; the Van Diemen's Land Company was formed to cultivate large grants of land at Circular Head on the north-western coast. Much-needed improve-

ments in convict discipline were introduced. Unfortunately he became involved in feuds with the press; his actions and his motives were consequently much maligned.

The most remarkable event in his time was the "Black War." The Aborigines had from the earliest days given much trouble, and it is to be feared that they suffered much wrong at the hands of convict shepherds and stockmen. Some ethnologists imagine that they are of a different origin from the natives on the mainland; their physique was generally better, and they proved more formidable foes.

An attempt was now made to capture the whole of the remnants of this unhappy race, to hem them in by a cordon drawn across the island. Three thousand five hundred persons, including 300 of the regular army were employed in this inglorious campaign, which cost above 30,000*l*. As might have been anticipated, the natives of the bush eluded all pursuit. Only one old woman and a decrepit man were captured.

Conciliation subsequently prevailed where force had failed. The whole of the natives surrendered to the persuasion of Mr. George Augustus Robinson, afterwards the Chief Protector of the Aborigines at Victoria. They were removed to Flinders Island in the year 1837, where the last of

this unfortunate branch of humanity, an old woman named Truganina, died in 1876, at the age of seventy-three.

Sir John Franklin, whose sad fate in the Arctic Seas is too well known, succeeded Sir George Arthur. Free immigration now commenced ; great prosperity, followed by a very severe reaction, ensued : the latter was caused chiefly by a temporary depression at Port Phillip in 1842-43.

It is unnecessary to pursue the politics of Tasmania. They are confined almost exclusively to the agitation against transportation. All the Imperial expenditure upon public works, the cause of the island's prosperity, failed to reconcile its inhabitants to the moral evils of association with prisoners. The system of assignment was doubtless open to many objections. The "Probation Gangs" now substituted for it were infinitely worse. The whole population joined in an outcry against the reception of convicts in any way or under any circumstances. Out of 140 magistrates, 117 joined in an unqualified denunciation of the system. A league was formed with the other colonies, and this blot on the fair fame of Australia was finally abolished in 1853. So intense was the feeling that the very name of Van Diemen's Land, associated with so many horrors, was, at the request of the inhabitants, changed into that of Tasmania.



THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES (continued).

Name of Colony.	Miles of Railway open Dec. 31, 1879.	Miles of Railway in course of Construction Dec. 31, 1879.	Miles of Telegraph in course of Construction, Dec. 31, 1879.	No. of Acres under Crop in 1879.	No. of Horses in 1879.	No. of Cattle in 1879.	No. of Sheep in 1879.	Public Debt on Dec. 31, 1879	Rate of indebtedness per head of population.
			Miles. 497½					£	£ s. d.
New South Wales .....	736	286	7,517½	635,641	360,038	2,914,210	29,043,392	14,937,419	20 6 10½
Victoria .....	1,125	74½	3,155	1,688,275	216,710	1,129,358	8,651,775	20,050,753	22 5 10½
South Australia .....	559	262½	4,393½	2,271,058	130,052	266,217	6,140,396	6,605,750	25 9 6½
Queensland .....	503	305	5,871	101,052	163,083	2,800,633	6,065,034	10,196,150	46 16 0½
Tasmania .....	172½	.....	731	156,184	24,578	129,091	1,834,441	1,786,890	15 17 8½
Western Australia .....	72	19½	1,568½	65,491½	32,411	60,617	1,109,860	361,000	12 11 10
Total .....	3,167½	937½	23,236½	4,917,701½	966,872	7,300,126	52,844,898	53,937,872	23 19 0½

# AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, 1878-9. PRODUCE OF CROPS.

Name of Colony.	Bushels raised of—					Tons raised of—		Gallons of Wine made.
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Other Cereals. <sup>1</sup>	Potatoes.	Hay.	
Victoria.....	6,060,737	2,366,026	417,157	40,754	269,252	98,958	209,028	410,333
New South Wales .....	3,439,326	447,912	132,072	4,420,580	27,621	53,590	172,407	684,733
Queensland .....	130,452	1,274	16,904	1,539,510	...	9,063	18,553	64,407
South Australia .....	9,332,049	35,202	142,933	...	48,191	1		
Western Australia .....	229,342	28,249	72,498	296	8,919			
Total .....	19,191,906	2,878,663	781,564	6,001,140	353,983	176		
Tasmania .....	778,977	714,987	97,845	...	92,403	27		

Including beans and pease, except in the case of New South Wales.

**AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, 1878-9 (continued).**  
**PRODUCE OF CROPS.**

Name of Colony.	Bushels per Acre of—					Tons per Acre of—	
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Other Cereals. <sup>1</sup>	Potatoes.	Hay.
Victoria.....	8'76	17'60	18'24	21'02	15'90	2'71	1'21
New South Wales.....	14'74	20'24	21'47	33'85	17'22	3'20	1'66
Queensland.....	13'56	9'65	15'87	28'62	...	2'33	1'33
South Australia .....	7'15	12'01	11'82	...	11'38	2'67	'97
Western Australia .....	9'97	18'02	12'23	7'40	10'92	2'49	1'00
Total ... ..	8'48	17'86	16'25	32'20	14'67	2'81	1'19
Tasmania .....	16'10	24'82	24'22	...	18'12	3'37	1'19

<sup>1</sup> Including beans and pease, except in the case of New South Wales.

**CULTIVATION PER HEAD IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES,  
1874 TO 1879.**

Colony.	Acres under Tillage per Head of Population.						
	1873-4.	1874-5.	1875-6.	1876-7.	1877-8.	1878-9.	Mean.
South Australia .....	6.18	6.50	6.86	6.71	7.72	8.09	7.01
Tasmania.....	1.61	3.13	3.21	3.15	3.26	3.23	2.93
Western Australia .....	2.01	1.73	1.78	1.68	1.82	1.81	1.80
Victoria .....	1.22	1.25	1.37	1.47	1.65	1.83	1.46
New South Wales .....	.82	.80	.74	.82	.83	.88	.81
Queensland .....	.43	.39	.43	.46	.52	.56	.46



# BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1880.

(Compiled from the Averages of the Quarter ended 31st March, 1880.)

Colony.	Number of Banks.	Liabilities.				Total.
		Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.	
Victoria.....	11	£ 1,183,246	£ 53,364	£ 244,736	£ 16,644,018	£ 18,125,364
New South Wales .....	11	1,167,992	42,743	150,199	18,187,035	19,547,969
Queensland .....	6	324,497	12,775	75,672	3,588,533	4,001,477
South Australia .....	8	510,815	12,911	52,703	3,547,128	4,123,577
Western Australia .....	3	21,051	1,264	6,282	354,194	382,791
Tasmania .....	5	130,542	5,674	3,566	2,120,368	2,260,150

# BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1880 (*continued*).

(Compiled from the Averages of the Quarter ended 31st March, 1880.)

Colony.	Assets.				
	Coin and Bullion.	Landed Property.	Balances due from, and Notes and Bills of, other banks.	All Debts due to the Banks.	Total.
Victoria.....	£ 4,035,926	£ 844,455	£ 310,961	£ 19,894,476	£ 25,085,818
New South Wales .....	3,166,393	508,307	4,329,604 <sup>1</sup>	16,560,158	24,564,462
Queensland .....	1,151,211	179,266	65,079	4,120,182	5,515,738
South Australia .....	696,309	254,965	193,744	6,172,652	7,317,670
Western Australia .....	98,234	8,986	16,159	406,039	529,418
Tasmania .....	345,369	36,656	156,252	1,722,997	2,261,274

<sup>1</sup> This amount probably includes capital lent by the New South Wales banks to their own branches outside the colony.

# DEATH RATES IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1868 TO 1878.

Year.	Number of Deaths per 1000 of Mean Population.					
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.
1868	15'00	15'83	17'36	14'41	...	14'70
1869	15'25	14'05	16'20	12'37	...	13'20
1870	14'68	13'27	14'59	13'94	...	13'88
1871	13'43	12'54	14'83	12'87	...	13'38
1872	14'23	14'11	14'97	15'33	14'02	13'79
1873	14'74	13'84	16'06	13'48	16'24	14'52
1874	15'30	15'12	17'98	17'05	18'74	16'21
1875	18'76	18'09	23'80	19'45	17'88	20'00
1876	16'33	18'11	18'82	16'28	14'18	16'54
1877	15'03	15'28	17'29	13'99	15'70	19'17
1878	14'62	15'88	20'41	15'44	14'07	15'66
Means ...	15'22	15'10	17'01	14'96	15'83	15'55

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